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AMATSUKI

by TAKAYAMA Shinobu

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Credits

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Proofreader: Fathom
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CHAPTER 80: CRYSTALLINE UTSUGI

Note: Utsugi is a type of flower known as "deutzia" in English. In Japanese flower language, utsugi stands for "tradition" and "secrecy". It's also written with two of the same kanji that appear in Utsubushi's name.

SFX: CRASH
CRUMBLE
UWAH!
SFX: SLASH SLASH
HEY!!
AH!
SFX: SLASH
SFX: SLAM
WAH!
SLIP

UWAAAH!
OWW...
OW...
SFX: WAAAAAH
WAAAAAH!
AH!!
HE BROKE ...!?
I'M SO SORRY SHAMON -SAAAN!
NOT BAD TOKI!
THAT'S HOW YOU HAVE TO FIGHT THEM!
SFX: CRASH
SFX: SLASH
UWAHH!
KON!
SHIT!

...WHOA, THAT'S SO CREEPY

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN RUN FROM ME?

KUCHIHA

SFX. LUNGE
SFX. SLASH
IF THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE, IT'S NOT FUNNY!
SFX. JUMP
OKAY!?
OW!
AH!
WAH!

SFX. ROLL ROLL ROLL
OW...

SFX. THUD
PFF!

.....
OH CRAP
THAT'S REALISTIC
WHAT IS REALITY?
AND WHAT IS ILLUSION?
CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?
THE REALITY YOU SEE BEFORE YOUR EYES MAY NOT BE REAL AT ALL.
UM, YEAH, ISN'T THAT WHAT THE MIRROR DEMON SAID JUST A MINUTE AGO?
THIS IS JUST TOO CREEPY
SHUDDER

I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET SUCKED INTO THE ILLUSIONS!!
NONE OF THIS IS REAL!!
SHATTER
HUH!?
SFX STAB
SFX WHOOOOSH
SFX STAB STAB STAB

HIWA..
SHATTER
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT NAME WITH THAT BODY...!!
HUFF
HUFF
FUCK YOU
SQUEEZE

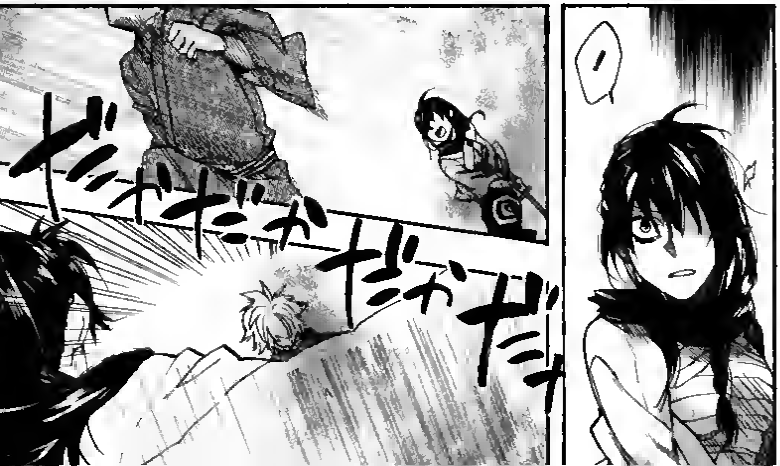
SFX. WHOOOSH

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT US LIKE THIS!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU SEND. THIS IS PATHETIC.
SFX: SQUEEZE
HA HA HA!
HA HA!
NO...

GLARE

SFX: LUNGE

SFX: RUN RUN RUN



TOKI!!
SFX. SLAM
SFX. SLASH
SFX. GRAB
SFX. JUMP

SORRY.
ズル
SFX SLIIDE

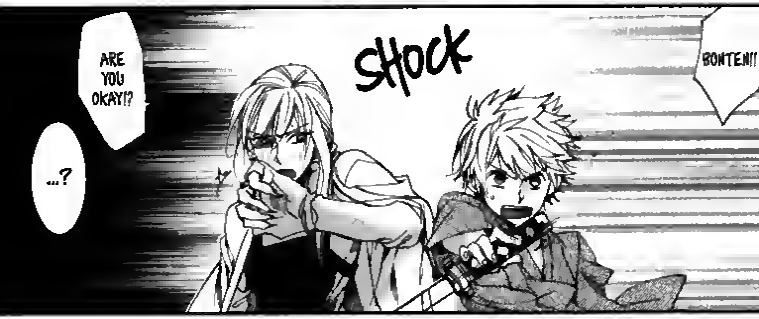
SFX. STAB
GAH!!

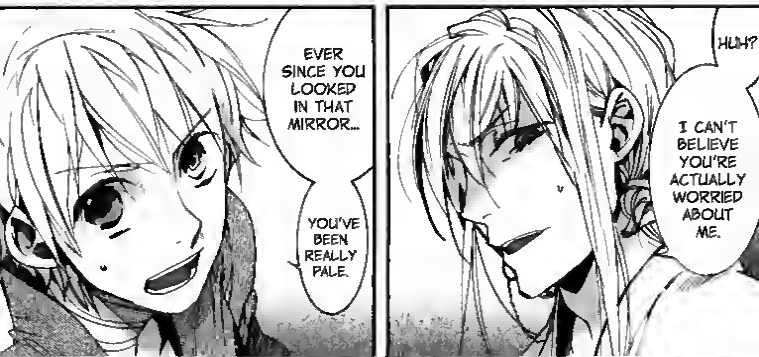
huff
huff
SHATTER
CRACK
WHERE...
DID YOU GET THAT...?
WHAT?
OH?
THIS?
WELL, I FIGURED IF YOU COULD USE THE MIRRORS TO CREATE COPIES OF MY FRIENDS,
THEN...
HOW HARD COULD IT REALLY BE?
WHY COULDN'T I...
PULL OBJECTS FROM THE MIRROR?

HM.
I WAS TRYING TO MAKE A SHEATH, TOO...
BUT THIS IS ALL THAT CAME OUT.
IT LOOKS KINDA LIKE KANZOU'S SWORD, DOESN'T IT?
YOU REALLY ARE THE DAMRUT-TEAU TYPE...
UH, I GUESS?
I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW HOW TO USE MY POWER, THOUGH.
OH WELL

!?
Shock
THANKS, MAN!!
catch
KON!!
TAKE THIS WEAPON!!
YEAH!
Slide

TCH.
I don't need that crap
SMASH
TURN
SMASH
SMASH
NAIL BAT
The classic weapon for breaking glass windows!
SFX: STARE


ARE YOU OKAY!?
...?
SHOCK
BONTEN!!


EVER SINCE YOU LOOKED IN THAT MIRROR...
YOU'VE BEEN REALLY PALE.
HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME.

SFX: STAB

SFX: GRRRR

SFX: AHHHHH

SFX CHOKE

I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL, SO...
JUST STAND BACK!
I'LL HANDLE THIS, SOME-HOW!
...SOME-HOW?
SHUT UP!!
LNGH

WAIT!
AS IF I'D LET A DUMBASS WHO CAN'T EVEN FIGHT PROTECT ME.
OH. RIGHT!
BUT...
IT'S NOT OVER UNTIL WE DEFEAT THE BOSS!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH THIS SHIT
HMPH.
HOW DO WE KNOW WHICH IS THE REAL ONE?
GAH!!
USE YOUR BRAIN!
YOU HAVE ONE, RIGHT?

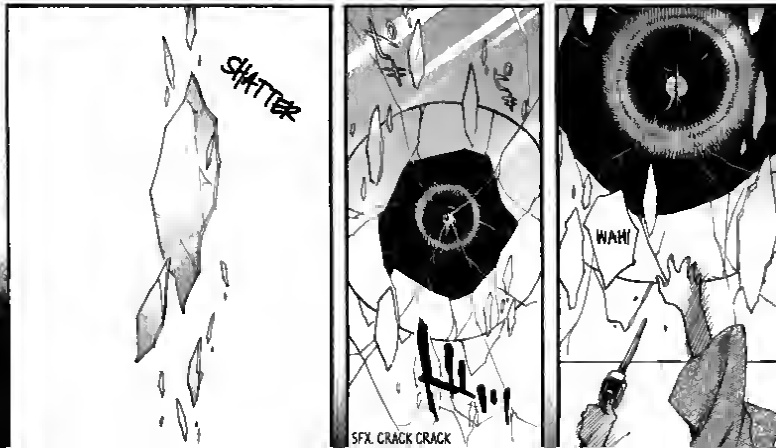
TCH!
STOMP
SFX: SMASH SMASH SMASH
SFX: SCREAM

DON'T FORGET THIS IS A "DEMON REVEALING MIRROR"
IT SHOWS THE REAL FORM OF AYAKASHI!!
I GET IT..
CRIMSON

SFX: REFLECT
SFX: REFLECT
SFX: REFLECT
SFX: REFLECT
I SEE IT!!
SFX: AHHHH

WHAT IS

GAH!!
SFX: STAB


SHATTER
SFX: CRACK CRACK
WAH!

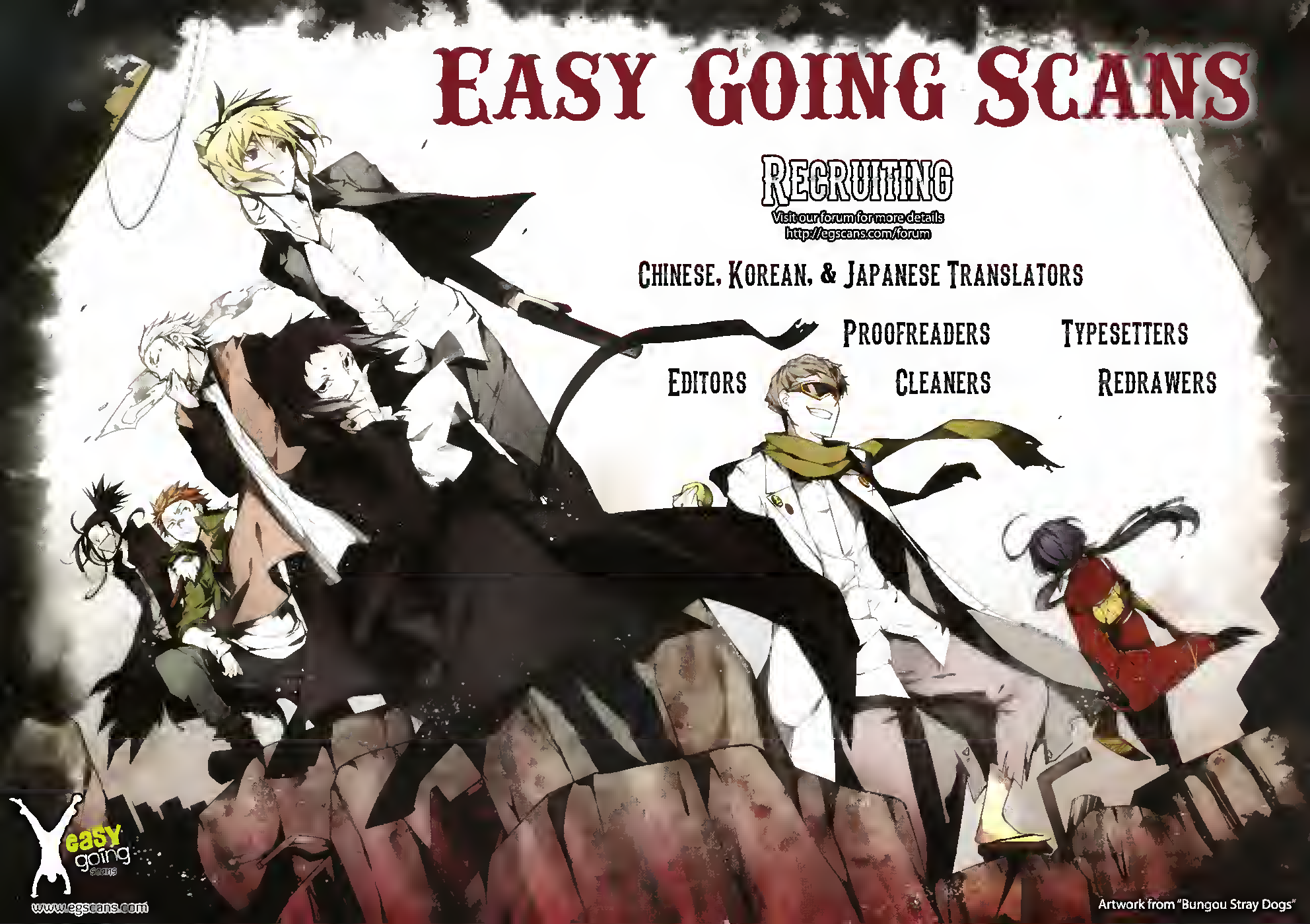
SFX: CRASH
...!!
YOU DID IT!!
SHIT
STAES

SFX: CRASH CRASH CRASH
AHHHHH!!
AHH!!
AHHH!!
TOKI!!
RUN YOU IDIOT!!
RIKU-GOU!!!
OH CRAP..

SFX: CRASH
TOKI...!

SFX. SHATTER
UTSU-
BUSHI
...!!?
UTSU..
BU
SHI...

あまつき13 おわり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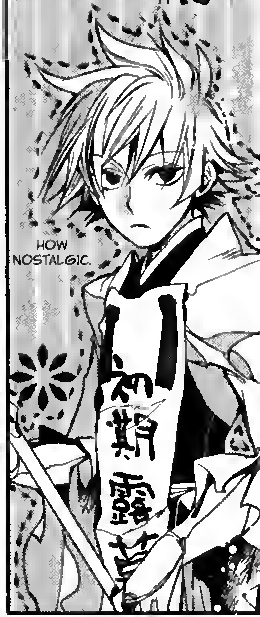
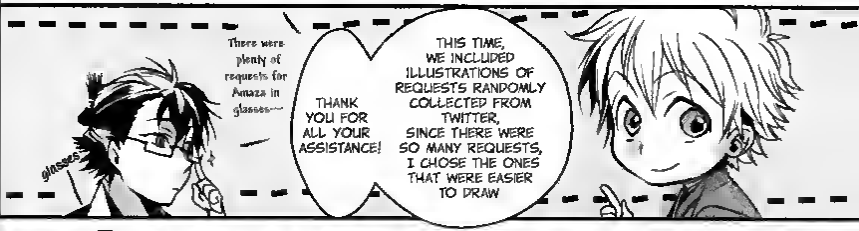
Amatsuki Afterword #13



WORD ON SHIRT: THE INITIAL TSUYUKUSA

LET ME SEE I HAVE NO COMMENTS REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MAIN STORY AND THE LAST SCENE SO PLEASE LEAVE IT!
LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE
SAY ANYTHING
S-SAY SOMETHING, ANYTHING!
AT THE VERY LEAST SOMETHING THAT MAKES US WORTH FOLLOWING! IF NOT, WE AND THE READERS WILL BE LEFT HANGING WITH THIS SITUATION FOR HALF A YEAR!
NO


There were plenty of requests for Amaza in glasses~~
glasses
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR ASSISTANCE!
THIS TIME, WE INCLUDED ILLUSTRATIONS OF REQUESTS RANDOMLY COLLECTED FROM TWITTER. SINCE THERE WERE SO MANY REQUESTS, I CHOSE THE ONES THAT WERE EASIER TO DRAW

WELL, THAT IDEA DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME. REJECTED.
1ST AND 2ND MOST REQUESTED
A TRIVIAL TOPIC...SUCH AS DRAWING PHOTO COLLECTIONS FOR BOTH THE BROTHERS, WON'T RUIN THE TONE OF THE MAIN STORY.

BUT IT'S GOOD THAT WE HAVE A THEME THIS TIME, THE AFTERWORD FOR THE NEXT VOLUME WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DO.
Scholar in glasses
Anniversary glasses
Old school
Ancient
WELL, IT DOES SEEM LIKE THINGS WILL BECOME MORE SERIOUS

SO...
I AM THINKING OF DRAWING A 4-KOMA OR EXTRAS WITHOUT SPOILING THE MOOD OF THE MAIN STORY STARTING FROM NEXT TIME!
HMM... WELL... DIDN'T YOU DRAW AN UNEVENTFUL PLOT THIS TIME TOO..? OR RATHER YOU DO IT ALL THE TIME?
DON'T MIND THE MONOTONOUS PACE! SINCE I WILL BECOME STRONGER!!
NOT THAT I CARE
ME ME ME!!
Since you're concerned about the pacing, I'm announcing some news to reassure you. Leave it to me----!
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE PATIENTLY BEARED WITH ME ALL THIS TIME SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 14...
EXCEEDED 80 CHAPTERS SERIALIZATION IN THIS VOLUME. WHILE I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE NICE TO SETTLE VARIOUS THINGS BEFORE REACHING 100 CHAPTERS, THE FUTURE IS STILL UNCERTAIN AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY BEST.
AND WITH THIS AND THAT, AMATSUKI WHICH DOESN'T PUT MUCH EMPHASIS ON ITS PACE AND DEVELOPMENT
TAKAYAMA SHINOBU
TOO BAD!! THE NEWS THAT IT'S STARTING IN MAY IS OUTDATED!!
There will be a new realization of Mr. Morning in Zero Sum online...
muffle
muffle
Grow up

CONSIDERING THAT THE EMPEROR CREATED AMATSUKI'S FORM...
HAVE HINDRANCES FALLEN TO A DETESTABLE EXISTENCE...?
UTSUBUSHI'S CLEAVED MASK...
THE THING THAT WAS DRAWN FROM IT IS...
WHAT IS... AMATSUKI TO THE NETHERWORLD!?
AN AYAKASHI'S TRUE FORM...

HAHA
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I WOULD SEE YOU AGAIN IN MY FINAL MOMENTS
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
AND...
THAT CAME UPON TSUYU-KUSA IS....!?
THE CRISIS...
WILL THIS WORLD BE SHROUDED IN DARK CLOUDS!?

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AMATSUKI
CHINO FU TAKAYAMA

AMATSUKI 14

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AMATSUKI
あまつき
14
高山しのぶ
Shinobu Takayama

CHAPTER 81: A STORM OF TREES

NOTE: THE TITLE "OOARAKI NO MORI" IS A PUN THAT CAN BE READ AS EITHER "FOREST OF STORM" OR "FOREST OF WEATHERED WOOD."

WHAT THE...
!?
!!
huff
HEY... KID...

ARE YOU OKAY...?

HUMAN!! ARE YOU HURT!?
WAH!

U. UTSU-BUSHI -SAN!?
Uooh, I thought we were both done for!!
HUH?
WHAT!?

You're kinda heavy

IS SOME-THING WRONG?
?
YES?
NO, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE...

BUT...
BUT HOW!?
I TURNED BLACK!!!?
I DON'T KNO-OOOO-OW!

!
?

Bon~ ~~~ !!
FLAP FLAP
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME!?
JUST CHILL OUT, OKAY!?
ARE YOU HURT OR ANY-THING?
..NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
GOOD.
sigh
GLARE
..BUT.. THAT'S ME! WHAT'S GOING ON!?
..BONTEN? IS THIS ANOTHER MIRROR ILLUSION?

UM... WHERE AM I?
Ugh...
PULL
!
NO
BUT...
HOW!?
HOW IS HE...
GRAB
TOKI... IT REALLY IS YOU!
!!!
ah

HASHITA -SAN!!
YEAH, IT'S ME..
UH...
SO...
UM...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HUH?
NOT THAT LONG, THOUGH...
BUT...
WHY!?
WHY ARE YOU HERE, HASHITA -SAN!?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S BECOME UTSUBUSHI
shock

CORPSES!?
gasp
I ORIGINALLY CREATED UTSUBUSHI'S BODY BY COMBINING DEAD AKAYASHI.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "BECOME?"
BONES FROM THE CORPSES OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS...
DIRT, WOOD AND FEATHERS...
A BIRD DEMON'S SKULL,
THE BLACK BLOOD OF ANOTHER AYAKASHI,
...BEFORE TEITEN TOOK CONTROL OF THIS WORLD,
"MISTAKES" LIKE THIS...
ACTUALLY HAPPENED PRETTY OFTEN.
NO WAY! I'M ALIVE! I MEAN, I THINK I'M ALIVE!
THUMP
THUMP
So...
so...
YEAH, SO I WONDER HOW THAT GUY ENDED UP IN THERE...
WHAT!?
THAT MEANS HASHITA-SAN IS A ZOMBIE!?

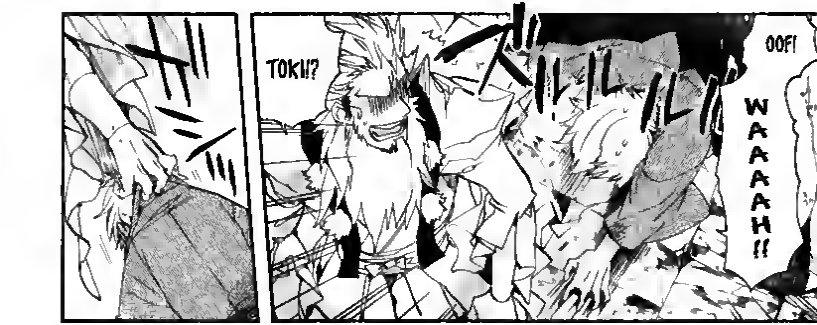
SO BEFORE TEITEN TOOK CONTROL OF AMA-TSUKI...
THERE WERE
"MISTAKES?"
Wait a minute...
THEN ...
BONTEN...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT KON AND I AREN'T THE ONLY HUMANS FROM THE REAL WORLD WHO HAVE GOTTEN SUCKED INTO AMATSUKI?
AND THAT AYAKASHI MIGHT BE HUMANS FROM THE REAL WORLD TOO?

HEY, YOU'RE FROM THE REAL WORLD TOO, RIGHT?
AND YOU MUST STILL REMEMBER AT LEAST *SOMETHING* ABOUT YOUR LIFE!
THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S WHY YOU ALWAYS UNDERSTAND ME WHEN I TALK ABOUT SCIENCE AND REAL WORLD TECHNOLOGY, RIGHT?
WAIT...
OMG, I GET IT NOW!
IT'S NOT THAT TEITEN IS MAKING "MISTAKES," IT'S THAT PEOPLE FROM THE REAL WORLD ARE BEING PULLED INTO AMATSUKI!
THEY BECOME SOMEONE WHO'S ALREADY HERE
THEN...
DOES THAT MEAN THAT ALL THE PEOPLE IN AMATSUKI, HUMANS AND AYAKASHI ALIKE, ARE ORIGINALLY FROM THE REAL WORLD?
blink
blink

OUR CODE WAS ONE BLINK FOR "YES" AND TWO BLINKS FOR "NO," RIGHT?
SO THIS IS THE TRUTH!?
EVERYONE IN AMATSUKI IS REALLY FROM MY WORLD?
THE "CHARACTER" MAY BE CREATED HERE,
BUT PEOPLE FROM THE REAL WORLD CAN BECOME THEIR "LAYER?"
THAT'S CRAZY!!
WHY WOULD TEITEN TAKE PEOPLE FROM THE REAL WORLD,
AND TURN THEM INTO AYA-KASHI HERE!?
HE CAN'T ANSWER ME OUT LOUD... IF HE OPENS HIS MOUTH I COULD END UP GETTING DISCOVERED BY HEAVEN'S NET.

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS PLACE!?
HUH!?

COME ON!
RUN!!
OH NO!
THIS IS BAD!!
WAH YOU CAN'T FLY!

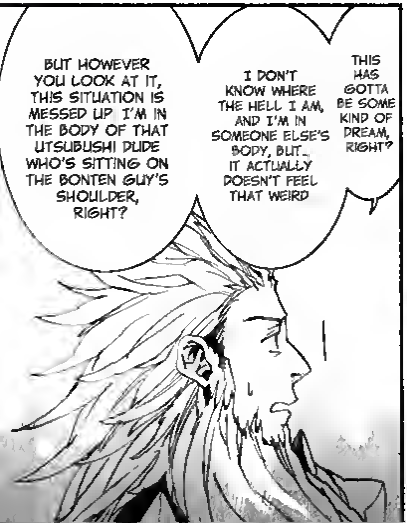

TOKI!?
OOF!
WAAAAH!!

huff
huff
huff
huff
We...
We made it...

ARE YOU OKAY?
...HASHITA-SAN?

huff
Damn it!

I'M JUST TRYING TO REMEMBER WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO ME.
YEAH.


BUT HOWEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS SITUATION IS MESSED UP. I'M IN THE BODY OF THAT UTSUBUSHI DUDE WHO'S SITTING ON THE BONTEN GUY'S SHOULDER, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE HELL I AM, AND I'M IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY, BUT... IT ACTUALLY DOESN'T FEEL THAT WEIRD
THIS HAS GOTTA BE SOME KIND OF DREAM, RIGHT?

YEAH...
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TALKING IT OUT...
OH, YOU MEAN LIKE, HOW YOU GOT HERE?
WHEREVER "HERE" IS...

BUT SOMEHOW I HAVE MEMORIES OF ALWAYS BEING THIS AYAKASHI THING...
...MAN, ARE YOU SURE I'M NOT DREAMING?
EVER HAD ONE OF THOSE DREAMS WHERE YOU THINK YOU'RE AWAKE?
A LUCID DREAM.
His weird ideas have gotten to me
Damn it this is all Aemi's fault
IT SOUNDS JUST LIKE THAT TIME I SAW GINSHU-SAN'S DREAM...
SLAM
GAAAH!!
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT ASLEEP AFTER ALL
HUH.
!?
!?
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?
OW!
WHAT THE HELL KID!?

SO, UH... SHOULD I CALL YOU 'BON?"
surprise
I GUESS... NOT...
.....
BUT IF I'M SUPPOSED TO BECOME "UTSUBUSHI," THEN WON'T "I" DISAPPEAR?
...RIKUGOU COULD PROBABLY RETURN YOU TO NORMAL.
...HUH?
shock
CRAP, I PISSED HIM OFF
sigh
sigh

shake
BON?
WHAT ABOUT ME?
IT'S THE SAME THING
IF YOU STAY LIKE THIS YOU'RE SCREWED
AND IN YOUR CASE,
YOU'VE PROBABLY LOST MOST OF YOUR POWER AS A DEMON.
YOU'RE JUST A TALKING BIRD NOW.
WHAT!?
I can't even transform...
flop
GRRRR
WAH!

HEY!
COME ON QUIT FOOLING AROUND!
!

GAH!
I GUESS YOU'RE KINDA USELESS.
AND NOW YOU CAN'T FLY PEOPLE AROUND ANYMORE.

YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A NORMAL HUMAN!
YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT ABOUT YOU!? YOU MIGHT HAVE MY BODY BUT YOU DON'T HAVE MY POWERS!
CAW

.....
.....
USELESS x2
DEPRESSED

RUSTLE
WHAT!?
BUT WHEN WE CAME THROUGH THE TORII GATE EARLIER THE PATH LEAD BACK TO RASHOUMON...
YEAH, THIS IS WEIRD.

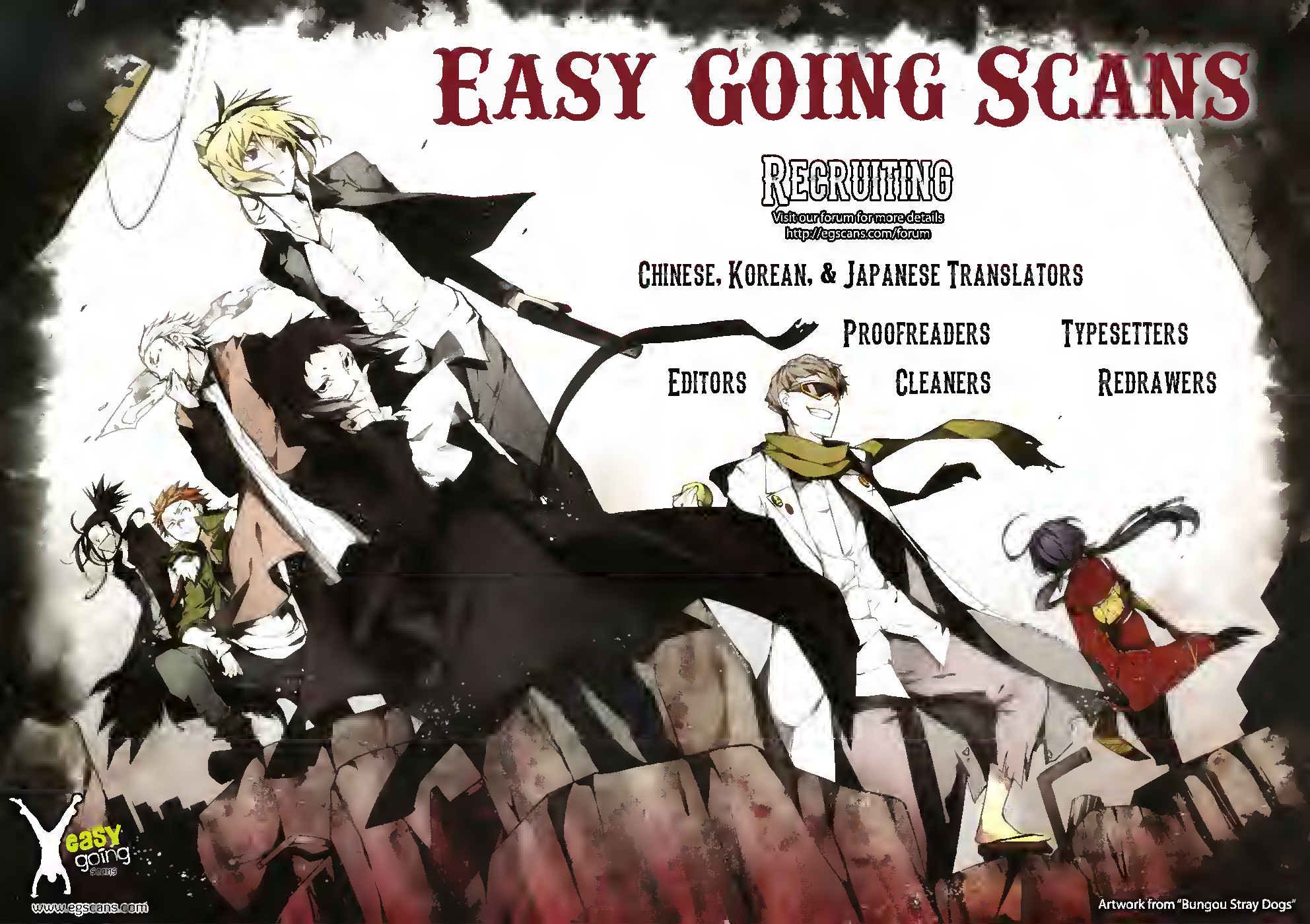
..THIS IS..
..RIKU-GOU -SAN!?
?
HUH?
B...
BENI SAN!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?

UM ...
I THOUGHT I WAS AT EDO CASTLE TOO!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL AT EDO CASTLE!
RUSTLE
THE MIASMA MUST HAVE CONNECTED THE DEMON PATHS.
THE MIST BACK AT THE CASTLE MUST HAVE BEEN USING THE DEMON PATHS TO ACCESS THE SURFACE WORLD.
IT'S EASY TO GET LOST ON THE PATHS, SO FEW AYAKASHI TRAVEL THEM.
THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW THEY'RE LINKED
SO BASICALLY, WE'RE SCREWED

YES BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS THAT RIGHT NOW!
WASN'T THE ONMYOU BUREAU LOOKING FOR MORE ENTRANCES TO THE SECRET PATHS?
DOES SASAKI-SAN KNOW ABOUT THIS?
AH... NOT QUITE.
I BELIEVE WE'VE EXITED SOMEHOW INTO THE FORESTS NEAR SAKAGAMI SHRINE
..WAIT YOU MEAN WE'RE INSIDE SOME KIND OF DEMON WORLD RIGHT NOW!?
T... TSUYUKUSA-SAN IS..!!
HUH?

TSUYUKUSA!!
RUN RUN
FUCK.

HAHA...
I FIGURED I'D NEVER SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN. I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE.
..IT'S YOU.
WHY..
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?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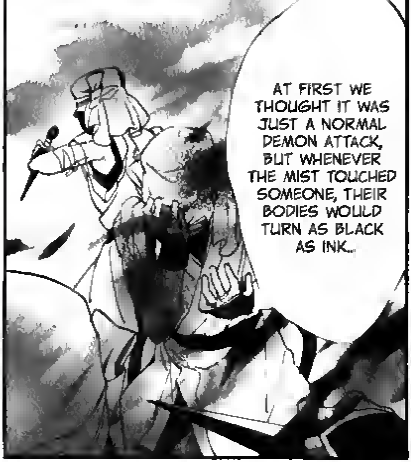
CHAPTER 82:
THE BLIGHTED HELL

WHO'S THERE?
BUT... THAT MEANS THAT BLACKENED TREE IS ITS...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT TREE...?
THIS IS WHERE BYAKUROKU AND THE PRINCESS FACED EACH OTHER.
TRUE FORM.
IT'S TSUYUKUSA'S...

HSSSS
WITHER
CRUMBLE
WHO DARES DISTURB THIS PLACE?
FRIEND ...OR FOOD?
THERE! THAT'S IT!!
THAT'S THE DEMON THAT ATTACKED US BEFORE...!!
IT CAN KILL ANYTHING IT TOUCHES ...!?
THAT'S RIGHT...!


AT FIRST WE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A NORMAL DEMON ATTACK, BUT WHENEVER THE MIST TOUCHED SOMEONE, THEIR BODIES WOULD TURN AS BLACK AS INK...

I THINK THAT'S THE AYAKASHI WHO'S BEEN SPREADING THE BLACK MIST THROUGH THE DEMON PATHS...!!

WHAT IS THAT THING...!?

ONCE THE MIASMA TOUCHES YOU, IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
THAT'S RIGHT.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
YOU DON'T MEAN...
TSUYU-KUSA...!!

(COLLAPSE
This is all my fault...

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA THAT I HELPED YOU BECAUSE I GIVE A FUCK ABOUT HUMANS OR ANYTHING.
STOP RIGHT THERE.
AND HE TRIED TO OPEN A PATH FOR OUR RETREAT.
WE WERE DEFEATED,
THIS ASSHOLE THINKS HE CAN HANG AROUND HERE
AND DO WHATEVER HE WANTS?
I WAS JUST PROTECTING MY TERRITORY.
IT'S PER-SONAL.

THE LITTLE BRANCHES
GO SNAP
♪
ALL THE LEAVES
FALL DOWN
♫
♪
THE LITTLE TREE WITHERS
♫
BUT THE SEEDS ...
WE EAT THEM UP!
WE EAT THEM ALL UP!
FU FU FU~
POOR THING
HEY ...!!

THE CHILDREN OF HEAVEN'S SEAT...
ARE SUCH PITIFUL CREATURES.
BIG BROTHER BIRD HAD ALL HIS FEATHERS PLUCKED OUT...
AND LITTLE BROTHER TREE WAS SNAPPED IN TWO...

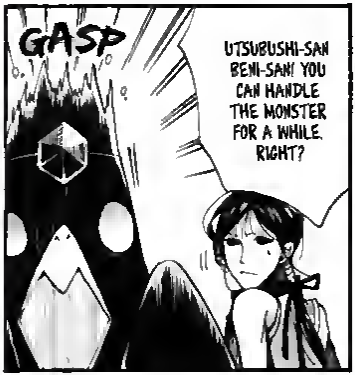
TSUYU-KUSA!!
YOU IDIOT!! STAY BACK!!
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SPREAD THE POISON!
SHUT UP!! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!
YOU... YOU MORON!!
HISS

OH NO! THE BLACK STAIN IS SPREADING!!
TSUYUKUSA!!
GET OUT OF THERE!!
KU
KU
KU
THAT LITTLE BIRD'S WINGS WERE DELICIOUS.
SO CRUNCHY...
BUT WE'RE STILL HUNGRY...

TSUYU-KUSA!!
ARE YOU OKAY!?

No, no! Uhh, Utsubushi-san's changed a little, but it's a looooong story...
shock
...OH SHIT, THE MIST GOT YOU TOO?
The mist!?

Well, this is awk-ward.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?


GASP
UTSUBUSHI-SAN BENI-SAN! YOU CAN HANDLE THE MONSTER FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?

NO PROB
THANKS, UTSUBUSHI -SAN AND HASHITA-SAN!
UTSU-BUSHI ...?

BONTEN!!
Come on, let's go
No way, no way!!

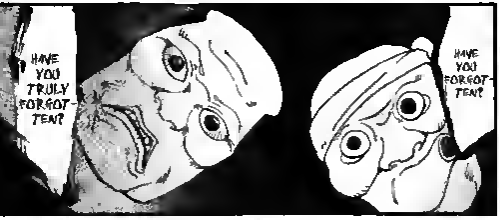
!
HOW DO WE HELP TSUYU-KUSA?
...IT'S TOO LATE.
...?
WHAT!?
I NO LONGER HAVE THE POWER...
...I CAN'T FIX THE SEAL.

SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ...!?
WITHOUT THE SEAL, I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME... MY SOUL WILL RETURN TO ITS TRUE FORM.
YOUR TRUE FORM...?
CRUMBLE

I'M ALREADY DEAD.
CRUMBLE
...
B...
BUT... THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO...
YOU CAN'T DIE...
TREMBLE

SO?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LEAVE HIM ALONE!

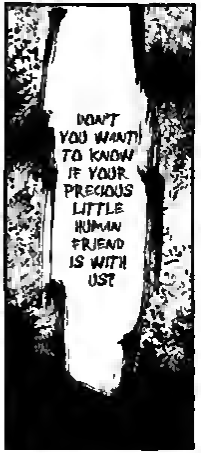
WILL BECOME A PART OF THIS MIASMA.
YES, YOU TOO...
YOU CAN FINALLY JOIN US.
NOW, CHILD OF HEAVEN'S SEAT...
ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL?


HAVE YOU TRULY FORGOTTEN?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

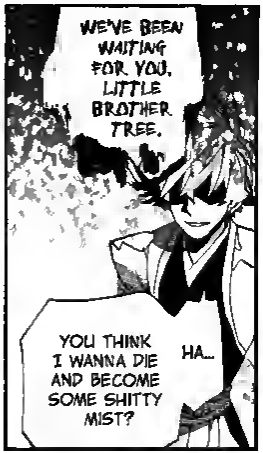
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

A HU-MAN!
BENI-SAN! UTSUBUSHI-SAN! PLEASE DO SOMETHING QUICKLY!!
A HUMAN! A LITTLE HUMAN GIRL-!!
HAHA HAHA!! HOW HEART-LESS CAN YOU BE!?
SHOCK

IT WAS A CHILD OF THE MAN WHO MUR-DERED RYAKU-ROKU!!


DON'T YOU WANT! TO KNOW IF YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE HUMAN FRIEND IS WITH US?

OH, BUT YOU WILL.
LISTE


WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, LITTLE BROTHER TREE.
YOU THINK I WANNA DIE AND BECOME SOME SHITTY MIST?
HA...

MY HUMAN FRIEND...?
Right?
We'll be friends forever.

YOU'LL SEE. SOON YOU'LL REJOIN THIS FOREST
AND THE FOREST'S MEMORIES NEVER LIE.
BUT YOU LEFT YOUR HOME.
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN.

YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE FOREST!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT "SHE" CAME TO THIS PLACE!
IT'S YOUR FAULT!
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT THE WHITE SNAKE IS DEAD!!

FADE
HISS
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!!
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A WOODEN DOLL...
TCH.
A HU-MAN BRAT?
YOU IDIOT!!
THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO GET TO YOU!!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR...
HEY.
TSUYU-KUSA...!! THAT'S...
IS THAT WHY...
I LEFT THE FOREST...?

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO GET WORKED UP, BONTEN-SAMA.
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO CRY.
SHOCK
TH-
THIS ISN'T GOOD, RIGHT?
BON!!
TOKI-DOKI!!
!!
CRUMBLE

RIP
JUST WATCH OUR BACKS A LITTLE LONGER!!
BENI-SAN UTSUBUSHI -SAN...
DASH
KON!!
GIVE ME YOUR JACKET!
AND BONTEN!! SHOW ME HOW TO WRITE THE SEAL!!
TOKI !? WHAT THE
Ow...
SCRATCH
GAH!!
SPLATTER
IF I WRITE IT IT JUST MIGHT WORK!!
Smear

GRAB
BONTEN DRAW THE SYMBOL ON THE GROUND AND I'LL COPY IT!!
SHOUT
UH...

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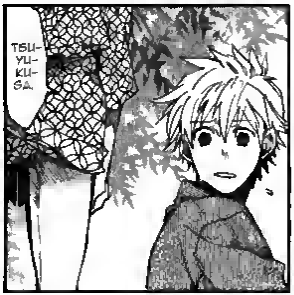
CHAPTER 83: FOREST OF CONFESSION

RIP
TSUYU-KUSA?!
WHAT THE...

HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO FEEL?!
YOU MAKE ALL THESE BIG DECISIONS ON YOUR OWN!! YOU NEVER TELL ME A DAMN THING!!
AM I JUST A GODDAMN TOY TO YOU?!
WITH THIS
HUH?!
SHRED
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO REMEMBER, RIGHT? I NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
TSUYU-KUSA!!
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE HIDING THINGS FROM ME!!
I AM SO FUCKING SICK OF YOU!!

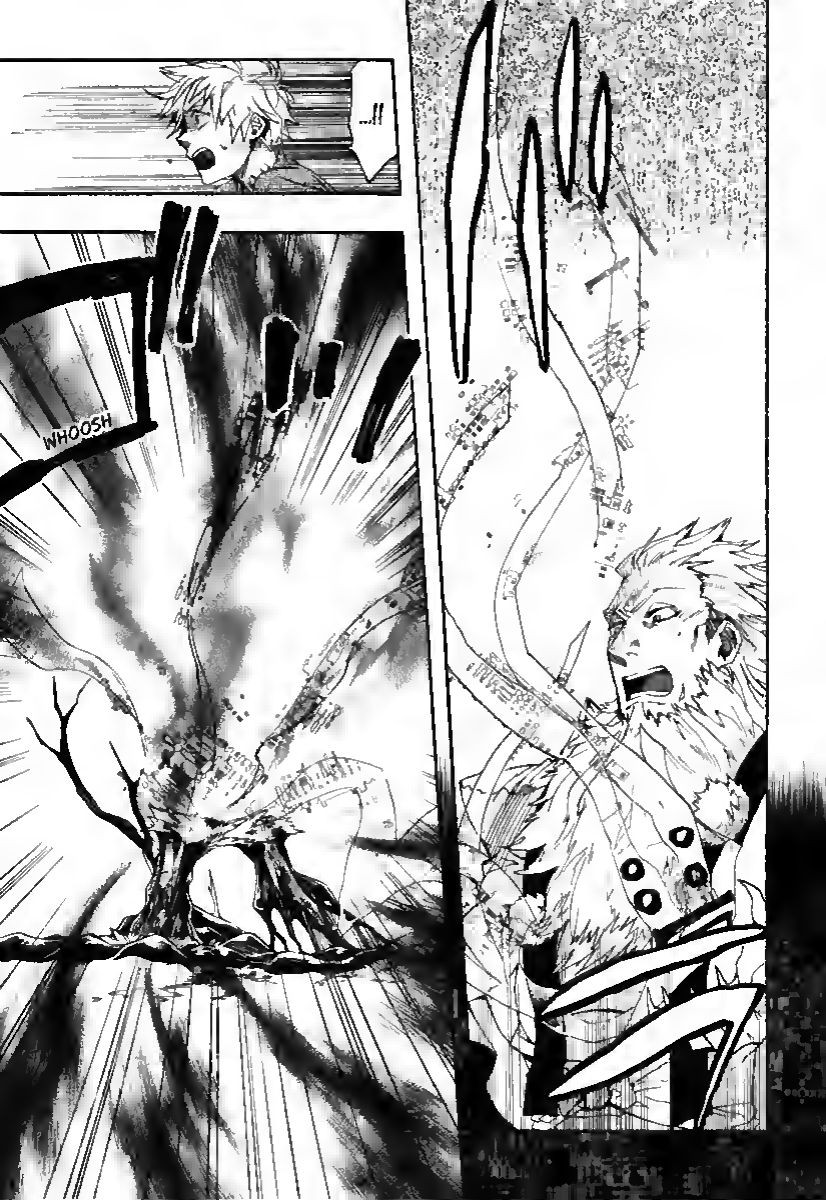
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. OKAY?!
I DON'T NEED YOU JUDGING ME ALL THE TIME!!
YOU THINK YOU'RE PROTECTING ME OR SOMETHING.
BUT ALL YOU EVER DO IS TREAT ME LIKE I'M STUPID!!


TSU-YU-KU-SA.

I...
I JUST... I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME.

I JUST WANT TO HELP YOU, OKAY...?
T...
GASP

SHUDDER
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
GAH!!
WHAT?!
AHH!!
KAAA AA AAAHH
TSUYU-KUSA...!!


...!!
WHOOSH

SCREEEECH
SCREEEECH
SCREEEECH
SCREEEECH
SCREEEECH
WITHOUT THE SEAL, HE CAN'T MAINTAIN HIS HUMAN FORM!!
WHAT THE...

YOU...
TSUYU-KUSA?!
IT'S OKAY.
CREAK
TH...
THEN...
THAT'S TSUYU-KUSA?
SO...
I GUESS THIS IS NOR-MAL?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
IT'S ME,
TOKI THE REAL ME
I GUESS YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND OUT; I'M A TREE SPIRIT
OH!
HE HASN'T TAKEN ROOT YET, SO HE'S STILL A BABY.
LIKE A TWIG
HE'S A CUTTING FROM MY MASTER'S TREE.

IF WE SAVE A CUTTING FROM YOUR TREE, YOU'LL BE FINE!
SCREECH
I THINK SO.
BUT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE GUYS FIRST.
O HO HO~
LAUGH
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOUR TREE IS ALREADY DEAD?

BUT THEN, THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE INVINCIBLE!
I CAN STOP THEM FROM DRAINING THE FOREST
THEN THEY'LL BE WEAKENED
...IT'S JUST AS THEY SAID. IN MY OTHER FORM, I WAS CUT OFF FROM THE FOREST
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING
...!! I SEE... IS THAT WHY YOU'VE TAKEN ON THAT FORM?
I'M GLAD.
I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER STOP SULKING LIKE A PETULANT CHILD
WITH YOUR HELP, WE STILL HAVE A SHOT AT VICTORY
SO I HOPE YOU AREN'T STILL ASHAMED TO ASSOCIATE WITH ME
laugh
!
hm

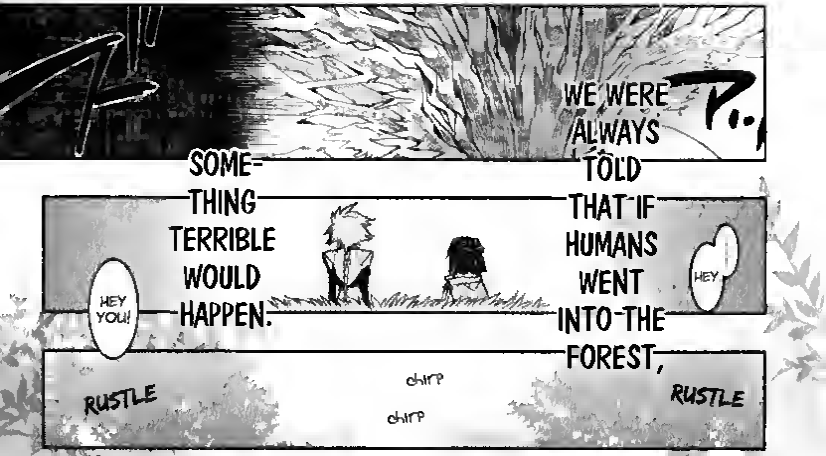
SORRY~!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE ASHAMED!!
huff
!!
TAKE THIS!

!!
GULP
SWWWF
HM-PH?
SHUDDER
LISTEN UP!
I'M THE MASTER OF THIS FOREST NOW!
I AM THIS FOREST!
I WON'T LET YOU
TAKE EVEN ONE LEAF!
AND I WON'T LET YOU HURT A SINGLE LEAF!!

TH-
THAT'S...
...!!
YEAH, WE DID IT!! THEY'RE FALLING BACK!! TSUYUKUSA, YOU'RE TOTALLY AWESOME!!
BON-TEN DID YOU SEE THAT?!
!

HA!
BON-TEN..?
SO, LET US WELCOME YOU INTO THE FOLD!!
BUT SO ARE WE!
THE MASTER IS A PART OF THE FOREST.
THE FOREST NEVER LIES.
WE'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW!
AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH.
AND OF YOUR TER-RIBLE SIN!!
WE WILL TELL YOU OF YOUR FATE...

ARE YOU READY, TSUYU-KUSA?
WE PRO-MISED, AFTER ALL.


WE WERE ALWAYS TOLD THAT IF HUMANS WENT INTO THE FOREST,
SOME-THING TERRIBLE WOULD HAPPEN.
HEY
HEY YOU!
RUSTLE
chirp
chirp
RUSTLE

QUIT CRYING, WOULD YA?
WHAT HEY! ARE YOU DOING HERE?

Ugh
rustle
rustle
WE PROMISED...
sob
WHO ARE YOU?
UH...
WHO ARE YOU?
HIWA?
WHO'S THAT?
SHOCK
I ASKED WHO YOU WERE FIRST!!
DID BIG BROTHER SEND YOU?
YOU MEAN HIWA?

I'M SHIN-SHU.
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH.
WILL YOU PLAY WITH ME?
WE PROMISED...
TSUYUKUSA...
...YEAH, OKAY.
ARE YOU A HUMAN?
OR AN AYAKA-SHI?
WHICH ARE YOU?
...NEVER TO FORGET EACH OTHER...
I'M NOT ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS UNTIL YOU ANSWER MINE!!

OH...
THAT'S RIGHT...
SO YOU HAVE A BROTHER TOO? IS HE COOL?
HE'S THE COOLEST!
HE'S THE NICEST AND SMARTEST PERSON IN THE WORLD!
RUSTLE
YEAH! I'LL LET YOU MEET HIM!!
NO WAY, BYAKU-ROKU IS THE BEST
(sniff)
YES HE IS!
EEEH?
NO WAY
REAL-LY?

WE JUST BROUGHT DOWN A HUGE DEMON!!
YEAH!
NOW WHERE IS SHINSHU...?
SHE'S NOT HERE.
WHO THE HELL ARE THEY?!
AND WHY ARE THEY AFTER SHINSHU?!
DAMN IT... SHE'S SUCH A PAIN
MIKO-SAMA, HOW LONG IS SHINSHU-SAMA GOING TO STAY A CHILD?
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO KEEP RISKING OUR LIVES TO SEARCH FOR HER?
I FEEL YOUR PAIN.
BUT THE SENIOR PRIESTESSES HAVE TAKEN HER IN AS A FOSTER CHILD.
AND I HEARD A RUMOR ABOUT HER...
WELL, IT'S JUST A RUMOR...
SHE COULD BE THE KEY TO STRIKING AT THE MASTER OF THE FOREST!

AH...
A CHILD?!
NO IT'S A DEMON!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN! HE'S ATTACKING US!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOU BAS-TARDS!!!
I RE-MEM-BER
SO YOU'RE THAT BRATTY GIRL'S FRIENDS?
WHO KNOWS?
I'M SOR-RY, BYA-KUNO-KU.
OR MAY-BE...
MAYBE I'LL EAT YOU!

IT WAS MY FAULT...
I'LL LET BYAKU-ROKU EAT YOU!!
NO!!!
COUGH

SW 4P
YESSS...
NOW'S OUR CHANCE!
CRACK CRACK
PULL
TSU-YUKU-SAA AAA!!
GRIAK

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CHAPTER 84: SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

BUT I GUESS I'D STARTED COPYING BONTEN'S INDIFFERENCE TO EVERYTHING.
BOUNCE, BOUNCE.
BOUNCE, BOUNCE, BOUNCE
BYAKUROKU ALWAYS ENCOURAGED US TO BE INQUISITIVE.
SO WHAT?
LET'S CLIMB TREES. THEN I'LL WIN.
I WIN!!
BUT REMEMBERING JUST MAKES ME FEEL EVEN MORE ALONE
...YOU ALWAYS WANT TO CLIMB UP HERE.
BUT I'M NOT COMPLAIN-ING.
HE'D PROBABLY BE DISAPPOINTED IF HE KNEW I'D BROKEN MY PROMISE.

BYAKU-ROKU WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME.
BYAKU-ROKU?
WHEN-EVER I NEEDED HIM, HE WAS THERE.
HEY, BYAKU-ROKU!
BUT IT ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE...
OH, TSUYU-KUSA.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
point
THE SKY

HE WAS LOOKING AT SOMEONE FAR AWAY
AND THAT LITTLE BIRD
ALL YOU EVER TALK ABOUT IS "HIWA THIS, HIWA THAT"!
SNIFF
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT HIWA?
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT ME, TOO?
OF COURSE I CARE ABOUT YOU, TSUYU-KUSA.
YOU'RE THE CHILD OF MY MASTER, AFTER ALL.
I NEVER EVEN KNEW YOUR MASTER!

ALL LIVING THINGS WITHIN THIS FOREST BELONG TO YOU
AND I, AS THE FOREST'S GUARDIAN, AM YOURS AS WELL
ALL OF THIS FOREST BELONGS TO YOU
YOUR WILL IS THE WILL OF THE FOREST
ONE DAY, YOUR BRANCHES AND ROOTS WILL GROW TO ENTWINE WITH THE WHOLE FOREST
AND THEN YOU'LL SEE.
I ENTRUST MYSELF AND THIS FOREST TO YOU
AND IF I AM EVER UNABLE TO PROTECT IT,
THEN...
I KNOW..
YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPARING YOURSELF TO HIM.
BUT HE'S JUST A LITTLE, LONELY BIRD
A LITTLE BIRD... WITH NO NAME, AND WITH NO ONE TO HEAR HIM SING
A LITTLE BIRD... WITH NOWHERE TO CALL HOME

CHAPTER 84: SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

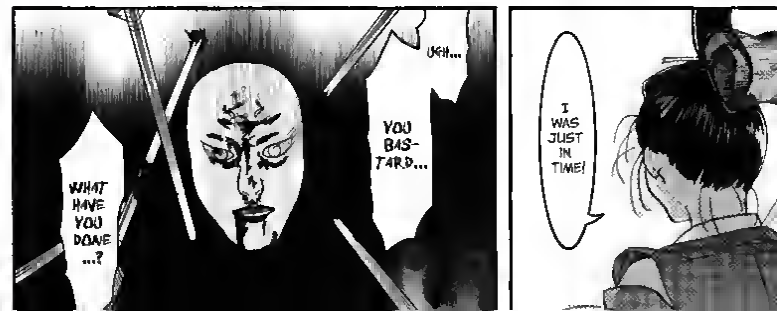
THIS IS IT!!
NOOOO!!

ドス
ドス
UGH...
GAH!
WH-
...AT
IS
THIS?!

NOW!!
ATTACK!!
GO!!

EH!?

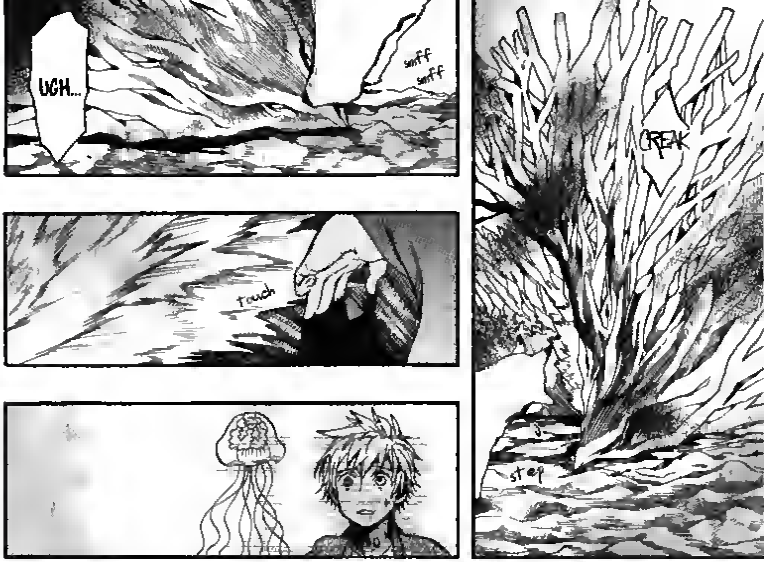
...!!
WOOF!
...IMA-YOU!?
THAT FOX...!!
IT'S THE ONE FROM NAKAMURA-YA...


UGH...
YOU BAS-TARD...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...?
I WAS JUST IN TIME!

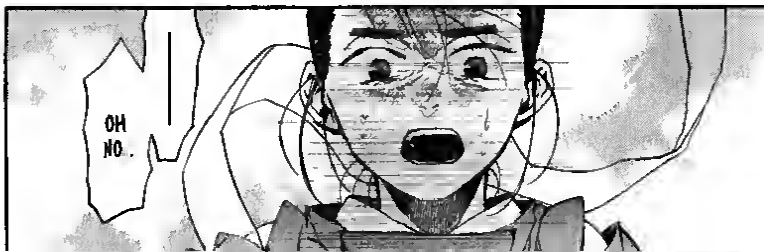
HEY, UNWRITTEN PAGE! LONG TIME NO SEE!
SORRY I DIDN'T STOP TO SAY HI BEFORE NOW!
I OWE THESE PEOPLE A DEBT OF GRATI-TUDE.
...IMA-YOU'S MAS-TER!!
gasp
!?
YOU'RE...
SO I ONLY KNOW WHAT IMAYOU'S TOLD ME...
BUT I HAVEN'T REGAINED ALL OF MY POWER AND MEMORIES YET
THAT'S RIGHT!
STILL!
fwo
osh
IT MUST HAVE GROWN NEW SHOOTS!
JUST LIKE TSUYU-KUSA!
HUH?!
BUT THAT TREE WAS CUT DOWN...

I OWE YOU GUYS. BIG TIME!!
SHOOT!
URR!
URR!
ROAR

GA
A
A
A
A
A
A
A
step
TSUYU-KUSA-SAMA, FORGIVE US FOR BORROW-ING YOUR POWER.
WE'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE TOO MUCH AND YOU COULD DIE.
A
A
A
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO HERE...
AH


UGH...
sniff sniff
CREAK
Touch
step

Si
lence


OH
NO.

IT'S ALREADY...
TOO LATE.
shudder
UM, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
I MEAN,
IF THERE'S NEW GROWTH, HE'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT...?
UGHH...
Huh?
What are you saying?
I'M AFRAID...
HE'S RIGHT
LOOK...
ALL THE NEW GROWTH...
IS GONE...!!

WHAT ...!!?
IT'S A BROKEN VESSEL. THERE'S NOWHERE FOR HIS SPIRIT TO DWELL.
...!!!
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS SAY GOOD-BYE...

WHAT!?
NO!!
THERE
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO!!
ANY-THING!!!

I RE-MEMBER NOW.
Tch!
I KILLED BYAKU-ROKU.
I KNOW WHY YOU ALWAYS HATED ME.
IT'S BE-CAUSE...
I WAS THE ONE...
WHO BROUGHT SHINSHU INTO THE FOREST
IT WAS...
ALL MY FAULT.
SO...
HEY...
IT'S OKAY.
JUST...
LEAVE ME ALONE
BONTEN!!
SHUT UP I'M THINKING!!
!

SO...
JUST FORGET ME.
I USED TO BLAME THE HUMANS.
I USED TO BLAME BONTEN.
I...!!
I...

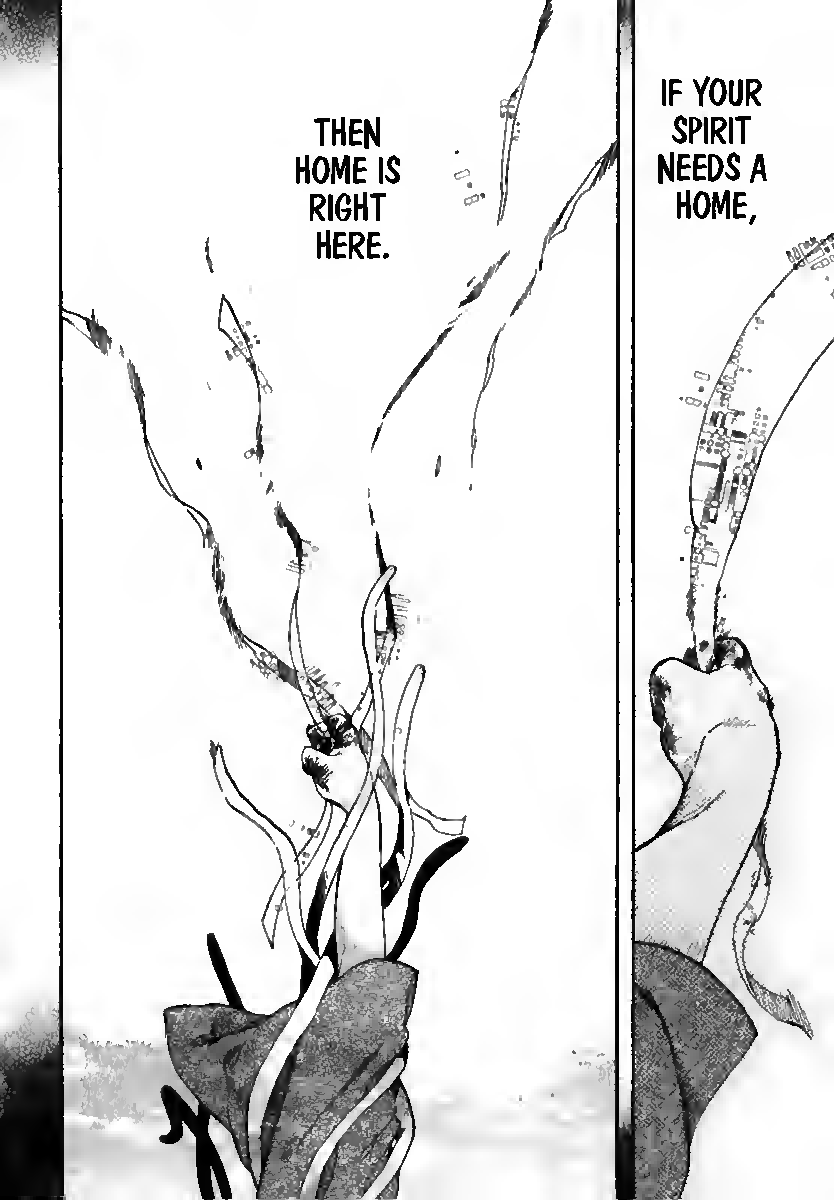
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT RIGHT NOW!!
DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT LEAVING ME!!
DON'T..
T-Tch!

TSUYU-KUSA,
HE'S JUST A LITTLE BIRD
THERE IS NO PLACE FOR HIM ON THE GROUND,
AND NO PLACE FOR HIM IN THE SKY
BUT TSUYU KUSA
YOUR BRANCHES CAN REACH INTO THE SKY AND YOUR ROOTS CAN REACH INTO THE
YOUR TREE CAN BECOME A HOME FOR A LITTLE BIRD.
BYAKU-ROKU..
AND IF YOU EVER FEEL LONELY..
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN.

SSSS
WHOOSH
THAT LITTLE BIRD WILL SING FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY...

SNAP
TSUYU-KUSA !!
SNAP
ビキビキ
ビキ
ビキ
THAT MUST BE TSUYUKUSA'S SOUL. !!

AND SO LIVE ON LIKE THIS.
HE'S NEITHER HUMAN NOR DEMON.
HE'S A MIX OF BOTH.
I'LL PULL THE SOUL FROM YOUR BODY.
IT'S FILLED WITH BITS AND PIECES OF OTHER BYAKUSHI.
I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS, BUT YOU CREATED ME.
WHO? HE TOOK THE SOUL OUT OF MY BODY...
AND PUT IT INSIDE BYAKUJOUYA'S BODY.
HEAVEN'S NET HAS... BEEN CHANGED.


IF YOUR SPIRIT NEEDS A HOME,
THEN HOME IS RIGHT HERE.

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CHAPTER 85: GREEN SHOOTS FROM AN OLD STUMP

I CAN DO THIS!!
THEN EVEN I CAN...
STK: GGJ3

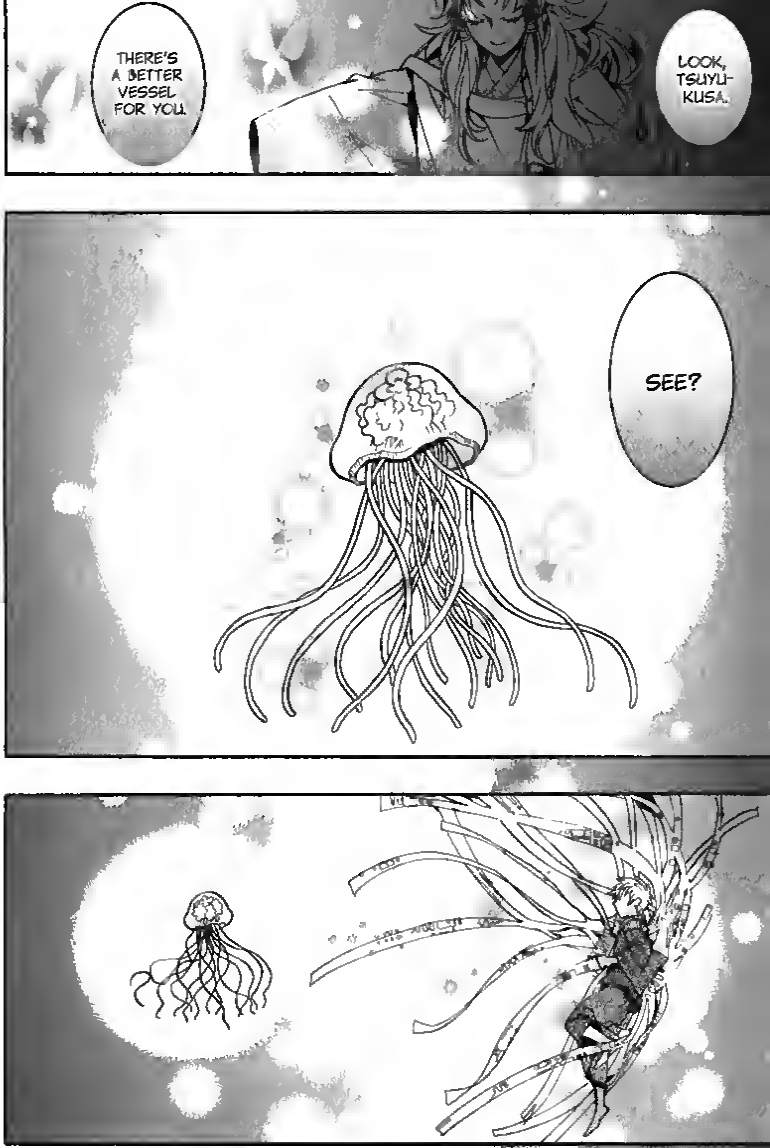
CHAPTER 85: GREEN SHOOTS FROM AN OLD STUMP

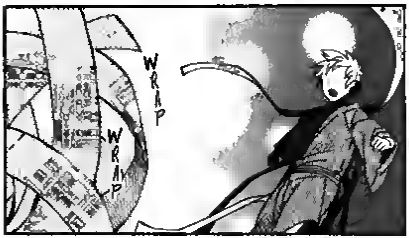
HUH?!!

UWAH
ARGGGH!
WOOF!
WOOF!!

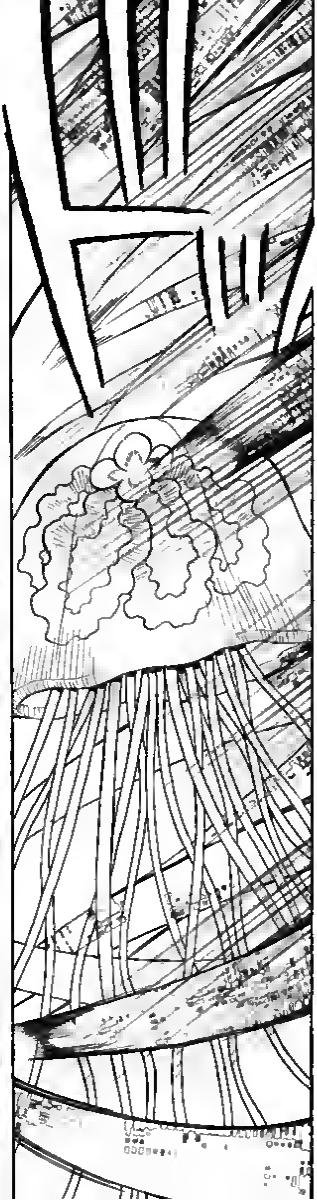
RIKUGOU YOU IDIOT!! YOU HAVE TO LET GO!!
IT'S GOING TO SUCK YOU IN!!
WRIP
WRIP
WRIP
WRIP
WRIP
GAH!
OH CRAP THIS CAN'T BE GOOD!
IT FEELS LIKE I'M BEING PULLED OUT OF MY BODY...!!

I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA, SO I'LL HELP YOU.
OH, WELL
PLEASE HOLD ON FOR JUST A MOMENT.
MY, MY
YOU CERTAINLY ARE RECKLESS!
FLUTTER
NO...!

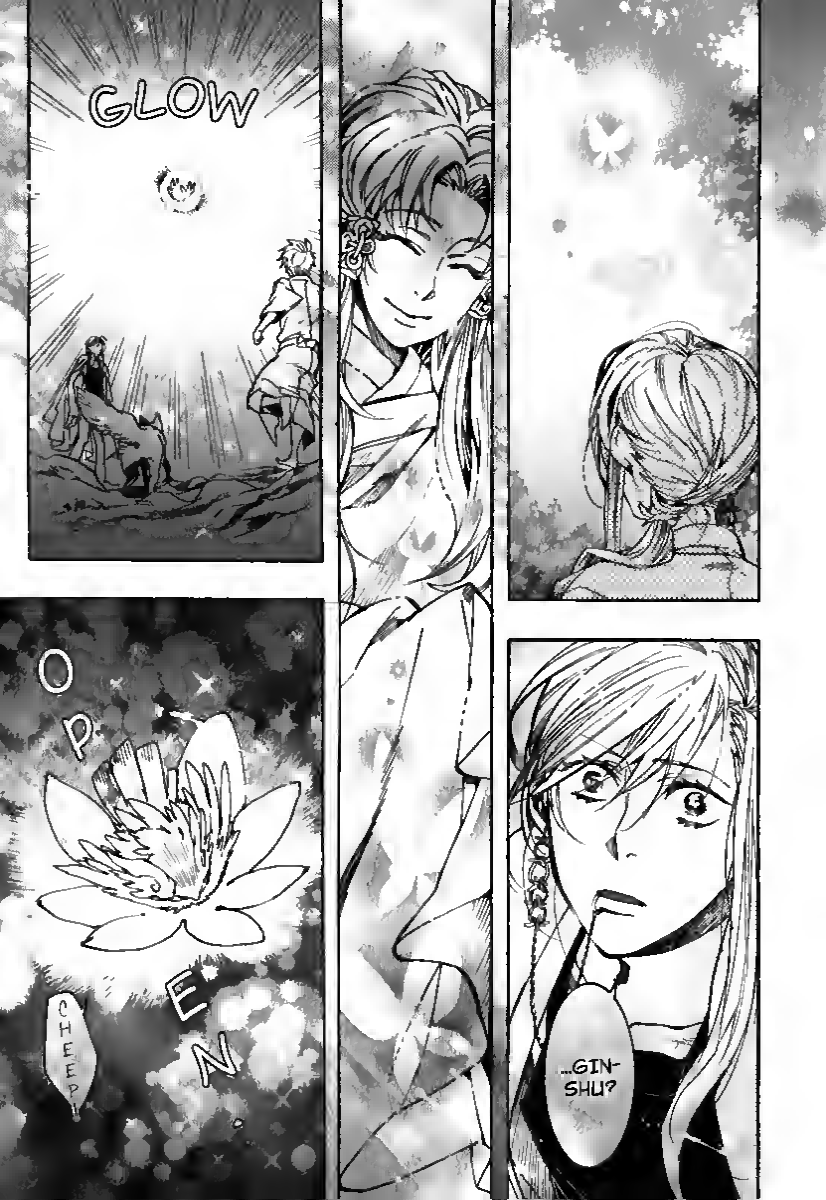

THERE'S A BETTER VESSEL FOR YOU.
LOOK, TSUYU-KUSA.
SEE?


WRIP
WRIP

WRIP



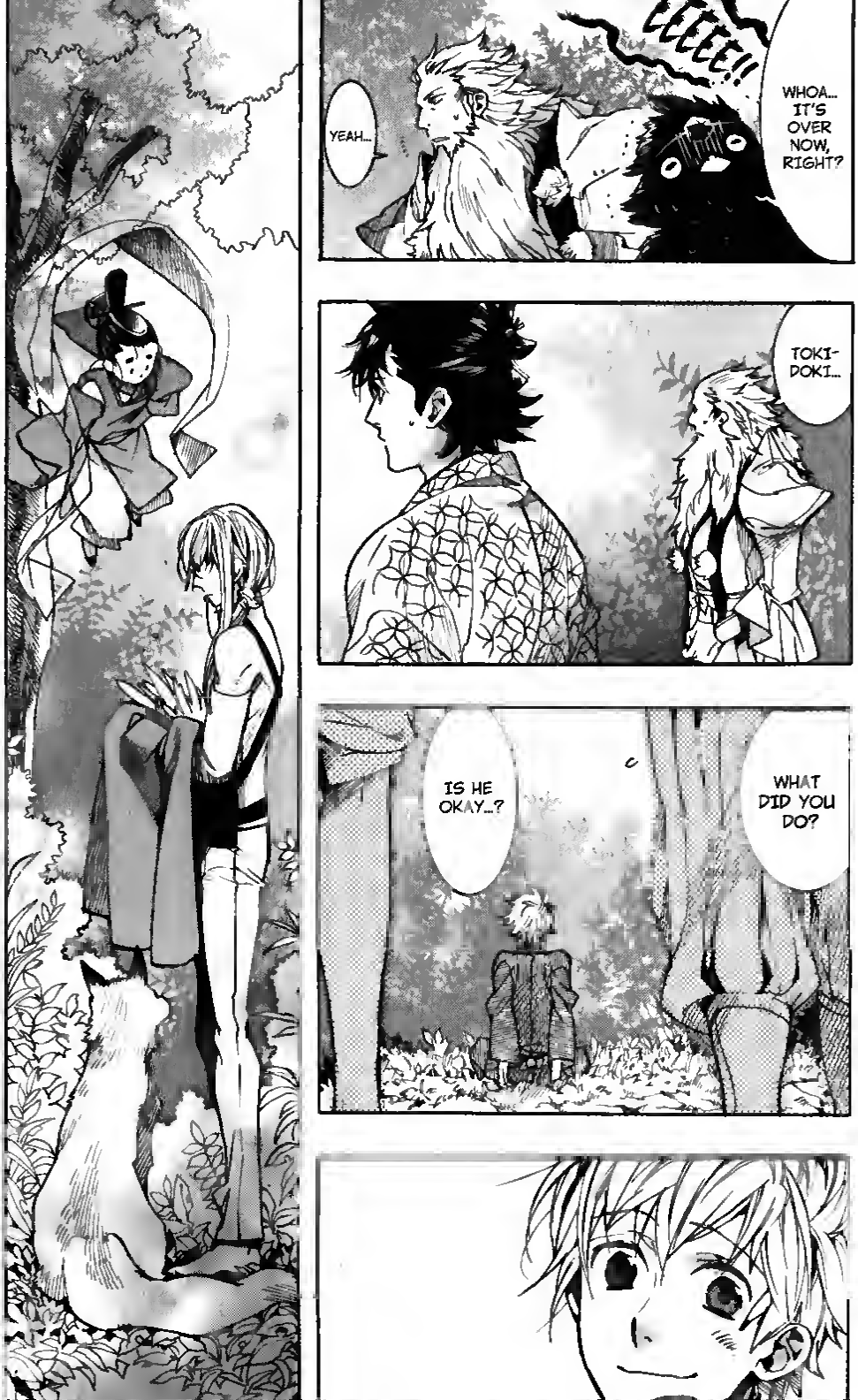
GLOW
WRAP
WRAP
WRAP
I'M GETTING PRETTY GOOD AT THIS, AREN'T I?
YOU'LL BE FINE NOW
THERE.
WOOF!


GLOW
...GIN-SHU?
OPEN
CHEEP

TSUYUKUSA!!

WAIT HOLD YOUR FIRE!
THIS IS THE DEMON WHO RAVAGED OUR MOUNTAIN..
AND DESTROYED OUR SHRINE!
HA!
WE'VE WORN IT DOWN!
AND REVEALED ITS TRUE INSECT FORM!
AND NOW IT CAN'T EVEN DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE FOREST..
PATHETIC!
HMPH!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING PATHETIC?!
I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S PATHE-TIC....
ROOOOAAAAAR!!

GAAH!!
PERHAPS YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION... WHO JUST DEFEATED YOU?
WAS IT A SNAKE?
WAS IT A GOBLIN?
OR WAS IT A HUMAN GIRL?
EEEP!
IT WAS...
A HUMAN...
THAT'S RIGHT.
SNIRK
FOR A CREATURE WITH SO MANY MOUTHS, YOU TALK A LOT OF NONSENSE
GRIN
OH...
WOULD YOU LIKE MY HELP?
SNAP
EEE?!
I THINK YOU TWO HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A LITTLE CHAT?
NO...
DON'T!
NO!!
GAAAAAH!!
AHHH!!


GGGGG!!
WHOA... IT'S OVER NOW, RIGHT?
YEAH...
TOKI-DOKI...
IS HE OKAY...?
WHAT DID YOU DO?

AMA-ZING..
IT LOOKS LIKE HE HAS...
RE-VERTED TO A JUVE-NILE STATE!
HE MUST HAVE DRAWN POWER FROM THE FOREST, RIGHT?
NO, IT WAS RIKU-GOU.
HUH?
WHAT?
YOU'VE FINISHED WRITING THAT SEAL, RIGHT? BRING IT TO ME
WIG
GLE
IT FEELS JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, DOESN'T IT?
WE JUST NEED HEIHACHI-SAN!
..YEAH.
WOOF!
THAT'S RIGHT!
IMA-YOU 5 HERE TOO
HA HA HA

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
I...
!
I JUST COPIED YOU.
WITH UTSUBU-SHI-SAN AND GINSHU-SAN, I MEAN.
BUT IT'S JUST LIKE WHAT YOU DID BEFORE.
THIS IS...
THIS IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SITUATION...
BUT...
SO...
I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE.
I DID HAVE A LOT OF HELP!
WELL,
AND TSUYU-KUSA.
ESPE-CIALLY YOU...

.....
sniff sniff
sniff sniff
WOOF!
I'M JUST GLAD I COULD HELP

Cheep!

KAN ZOU..!!
KAN-ZOU!!
YOU... IF... WANT TO RETRIEVE THE REMAINS OF THE DEAD, THEN FOLLOW THE LAUGHING YAKOU~
JINGLE

DID YOU FIND HIM?
NOPE.
NADA.
NOT A TRACE OF HIM.
DAMN IT.. WHAT A STUPID BRAT...
HE'D BETTER GET HIS ASS HERE RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
Fume
Fume
THAT TENGU FROM HEAVEN'S SEAT HAD BETTER HURRY UP TOO...
YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT WE CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THEM ANY-WHERE.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL DO IN ALL THIS CHAOS?
KANZOU COMPLETE-LY FELL FOR THAT DEMON'S TRICK...
...WE CAN'T KEEP CHASING HIM FOREVER. IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS.
THEN WHAT DO WE DO?
...FOR NOW, I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT FOR RIKUGOU -DONO TO RETURN.
WE SHOULDN'T RISK GETTING SEPARATED AGAIN.

I HOPE HE'S SAFE...
KUCHI-HA!!

I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU!!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!
COME ON!
..DAMN IT!
TURN
IF THIS IS ABOUT THAT GUY...
FORGET HIM!!
HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
NOTHING!!

OH, IS THAT SO?
THEN COULDN'T I SAY THE SAME FOR YOU?
WHAT CLAIM DO YOU HAVE...
TO THIS GIRL?

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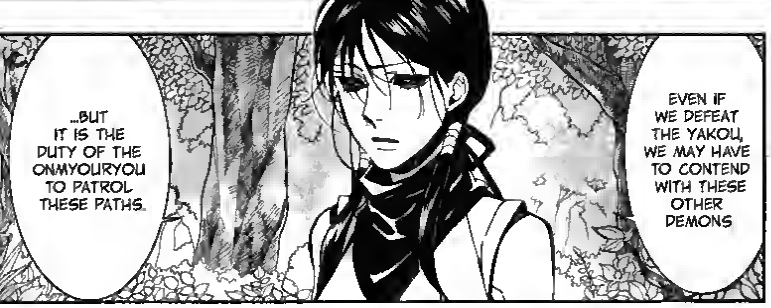
IF WHAT THAT CREATURE SAID WAS TRUE...
THEN THERE ARE COUNTLESS AYAKASHI LURKING IN THE MIST...
ALL ALONG THE DEMON PATHS.
AND THOSE AYAKASHI MAY ALREADY HAVE BEEN DRIVEN MAD.


EVEN IF WE DEFEAT THE YAKOU, WE MAY HAVE TO CONTEND WITH THESE OTHER DEMONS
...BUT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE ONMYOURYOU TO PATROL THESE PATHS.

CHAPTER 86: MIXED WEEDS

I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS.
FOR-GIVE ME.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WISH TO SAY, BUT...

BE CARE-FUL!
OKAY.
...IN THAT CASE, I MUST REPORT BACK TO THE OTHERS

RIKU-GOU -SAN.

SIMPLY WISHING YOU "GOOD LUCK" IS NOT ENOUGH.
BENI -SAN..

WHEN YOU RETURN, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A PLACE FOR YOU WITH US
SO I'LL PROMISE YOU THIS:

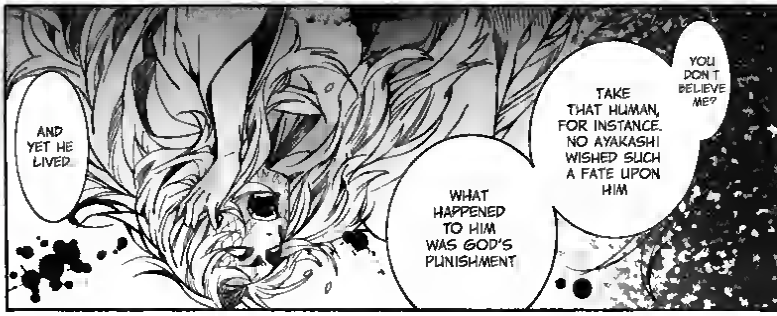
!
!
NO.

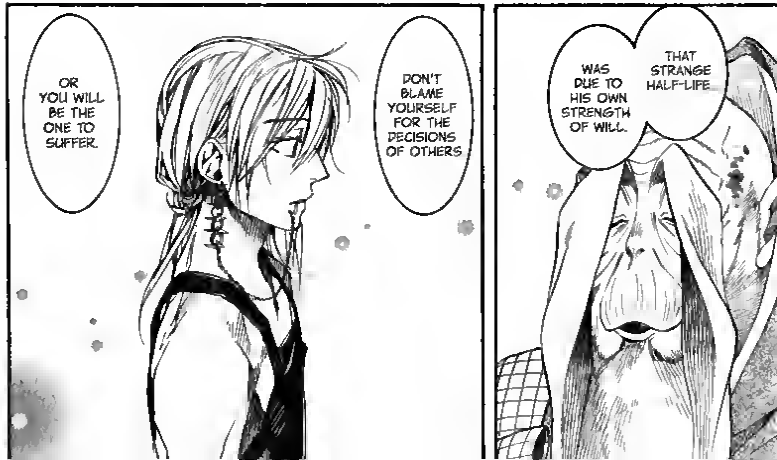
CHAPTER 86:
MIXED WEEDS
THANK YOU.
SO...
UH.

LORD OF HEAVEN'S SEAT...
JUST DON'T TOUCH IT
HOW LONG IS HE GOING TO STAY THIS WAY?
REGRETTABLY, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE YAKOU AND THE NUE PLAN TO DO
HOWEVER...
SOON WE MUST RETURN TO THE EARTH AND BEGIN THE PURIFICATION RITES
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE I CAN DO, THOUGH.
...YEAH.
WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THEM.
...DESTINY, HUH?
THIS IS YOUR DESTINY.
EVEN IF IT'S HOPELESS...
DON'T SAY THAT.
WE CREATURES OF THE EARTH ARE POWERLESS, SO YOU HAVE OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE.

ALTHOUGH HE LIVED AND RAISED HIS CHILDREN IN THE FOREST, HE CHOSE TO CONSORT WITH HUMANS.
EVEN BY THE STANDARDS OF US GREAT DEMONS, HE WAS STRANGE.
NOW HE WAS AN UNUSUAL AYAKASHI.
GREAT ELDER!
ARE YOU NOT THE SON OF BYAKU-ROKU?
GREAT ELDER!
EVEN IF I LIVE A THOUSAND LIFETIMES, I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND THAT.
o ho ho ho
AND THEN HIS CHILDREN, TOO, CHOSE HUMANS OVER THEIR OWN KIND
OR PERHAPS HE SIMPLY PREFERRED NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH US?
PLEASE DON'T MIS-UNDERSTAND I'M NOT TRYING TO BELITTLE YOU.
I'M ASKING WHY YOU SEEM SO FOND OF THEM.
SO WHAT IF BYAKUROKU LIKED HUMANS?
THAT YOU YOURSELF DON'T WISH TO DO.
NOR CAN I FORCE YOU TO DO SOME-THING..

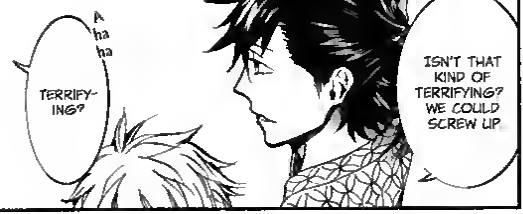
BUT ON THE PATH YOU HAVE CHOSEN,
YOU ARE NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL
WHETHER TO ASSOCIATE WITH HUMANS,
OR NOT...
IS YOUR CHOICE.

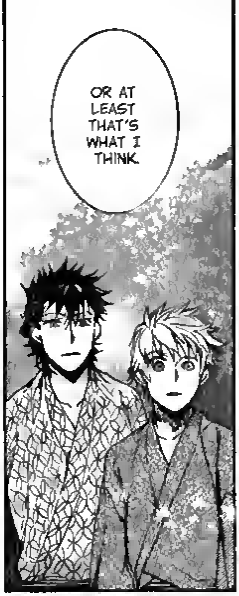

AND YET HE LIVED.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM WAS GOD'S PUNISHMENT
TAKE THAT HUMAN, FOR INSTANCE. NO AYAKASHI WISHED SUCH A FATE UPON HIM
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

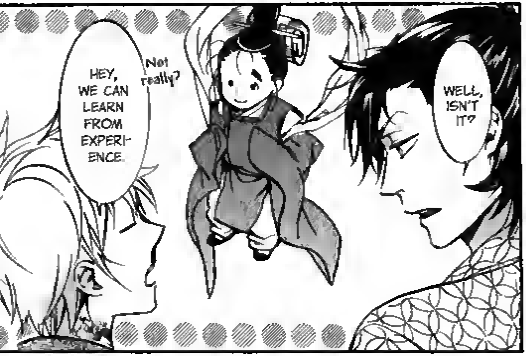

OR YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO SUFFER.
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THE DECISIONS OF OTHERS
THAT STRANGE HALF-LIFE
WAS DUE TO HIS OWN STRENGTH OF WILL.

YOU COULD STAND TO LEARN SOME DISCIPLINE.
OR I'LL HAVE TO PINCH YOUR CHEEKS.
I THINK I MIGHT ENJOY THAT.
DON'T BE SO EGOTISTICAL.
WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR BAD
I GUESS IT'S HARD TO HEAR THE TRUTH.
HM?
...WHOA, SO THERE ARE AYAKASHI LIKE THAT TOO, HUH?

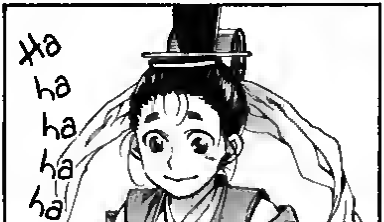
WE AYAKASHI LIVE AS ONE WITH NATURE, SO OUR STRENGTH IS IN OUR ADAPTABILITY.
BUT PERHAPS WE ARE TOO HASTY
WHEN A SITUATION LOOKS HOPELESS, WE OFTEN GIVE UP.
WE THINK TO OURSELVES, "PERHAPS MY DESCENDENTS WILL EVOLVE TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE."
I THINK "DETERMINATION" IS SOMETHING UNIQUE TO HUMANS, THOUGH.
I GUESS IT IS!
BUT HE'S A TREE SPIRIT, SO HE'S BOUND TO BE A LITTLE ODD.
BUT HUMANS.
NEVER GIVE UP ON THEM-SELVES.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ASK.
THEY WILL ALL SAY THAT THERE'S NOTHING THEY CAN'T DO
THEY'RE CAPABLE OF GREAT CHANGE.
PERHAPS IT'S TRUE THAT HUMAN DESIRES WILL DARKEN THE WORLD,
BUT HUMANS HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE FATE

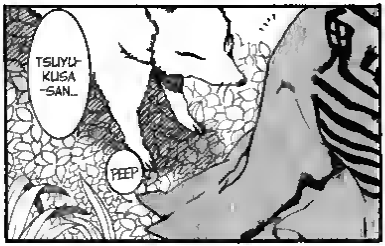

A ha ha
TERRIFY-ING?
ISN'T THAT KIND OF TERRIFYING? WE COULD SCREW UP.


OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THINK.


HEY, WE CAN LEARN FROM EXPERI-ENCE.
Not really?
WELL, ISN'T IT?

I KNOW THINGS MAY SEEM HARD RIGHT NOW, BUT PLEASE TRY TO GET THROUGH IT
EVERY-THING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
YOUR ANCESTOR AND YOUR ADOPTIVE FATHER SURVIVED MANY HARD-SHIPS, TOO.
NOTHING IS IMPOS-SIBLE.


Ha ha ha ha ha


TSUYU-KUSA -SAN..
PEEP

WOOF!
AND I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
RIGHT NOW, OUR NEW BRANCHES MAY BE SMALL AND WEAK, BUT WE'LL GROW

CAW!
Because they think you're me!!
Haha I guess so
OH, RIGHT_
UH, SO WHY WERE ALL THOSE BIRD-DUDES BOWING TO ME?
It's been a long time sir !!
COMPARED TO YOU, ANYWAY!
Hmph!
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE MIST IS STARTING TO DISSIPATE.
WHAT A RELIEF! I WAS WORRIED ABOUT FLYING INTO IT
THANK GOODNESS!
YOU'RE A PRETTY SMART BIRD, HUH?

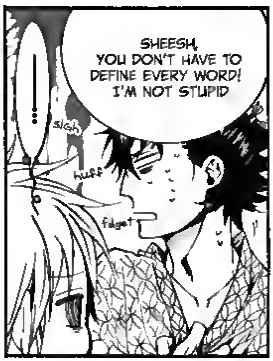
A DETEC-TIVE?
HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE. HE USED TO BE A POLICE DETEC-TIVE.

!
What are we going to do?
I ALMOST FORGOT. WE HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT TO DO ABOUT HASHITA-SAN YET...

YEAH
IS WHAT HE SAID TRUE? ARE YOU REALLY A HUMAN FROM THE OTHER WORLD?

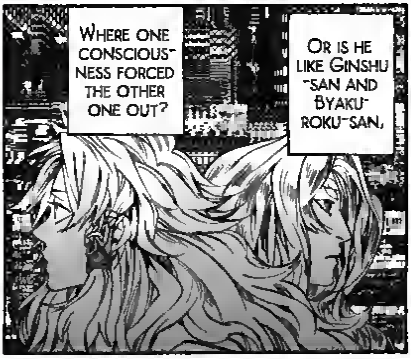
EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE OVERWRIT-TEN...
...I WONDER IF KON'S MEMORIES OF THE REAL WORLD ARE STILL INSIDE HIM SOME-WHERE.

A DETEC TIVE IS...
UM...
OH!
RIGHT, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT WORD


SHEESH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEFINE EVERY WORD! I'M NOT STUPID
sigh
huff
Edgar!

I WON-DER...
MAYBE HE'S LIKE GINSHU-SAN, AND THERE'S STILL A PART OF "SHINO-NOME" IN "KON."

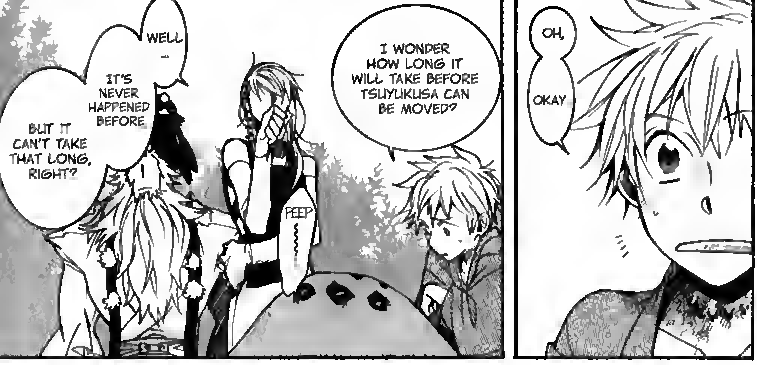
...WITH TWO SEPARATE CONSCIOUS-NESSES ATTACHED TO ONE BODY?
IS HE LIKE UTSU-BUSHI -SAN,

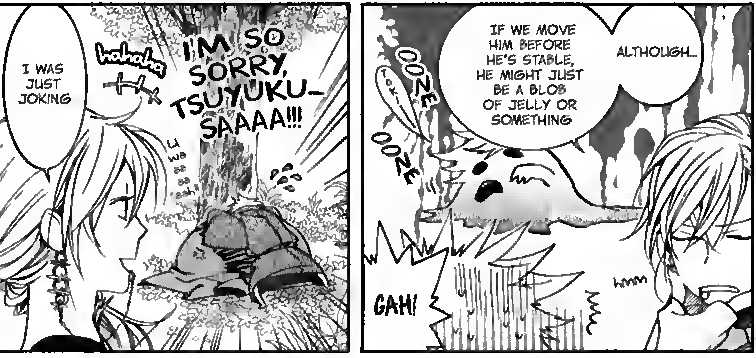

WHERE ONE CONSCIOUS-NESS FORCED THE OTHER ONE OUT?
OR IS HE LIKE GINSHU -SAN AND BYAKU-ROKU-SAN,

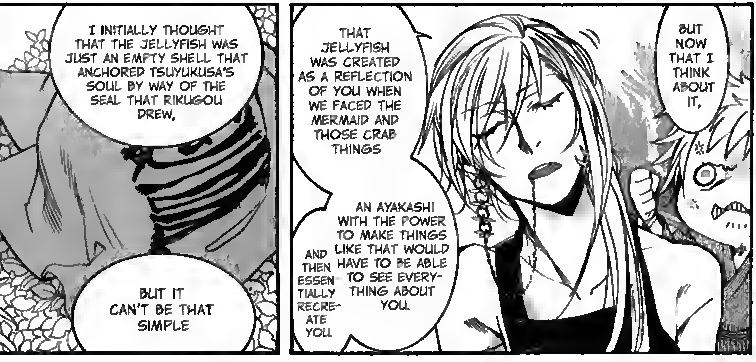
SHOCK!!
TOKI?
WHAT IS KON?

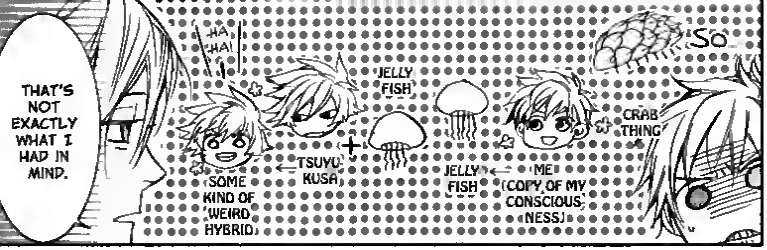
BUT...
GASP
IF THE OLD SHINO-NOME COMES BACK,
THEN...
WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS KON?

I... UH..
IT'S...
ARE YOU OKAY?
?
I'M OVER-THINK-ING IT.
GRAB
IT'S NOTHING
WE'VE GOT TO WAIT FOR TSUYUKUSA TO RECOVER,
SO WE MIGHT AS WELL TAKE A BREAK.
HUH?
HEY, RIKU-GOU!

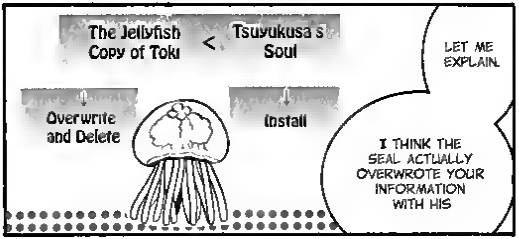

WELL...
IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE
BUT IT CAN'T TAKE THAT LONG, RIGHT?
I WONDER HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE BEFORE TSUYUKUSA CAN BE MOVED?
PEEP
OH,
OKAY

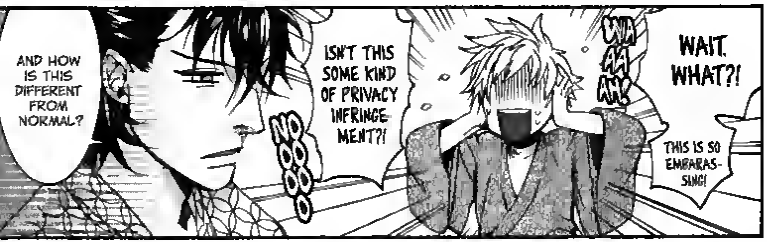

I WAS JUST JOKING
hahaha
I'M SO SORRY, TSUYUKU-SAAAA!!!
IF WE MOVE HIM BEFORE HE'S STABLE, HE MIGHT JUST BE A BLOB OF JELLY OR SOMETHING
ALTHOUGH...
OONE OONE
GAH!
hmm

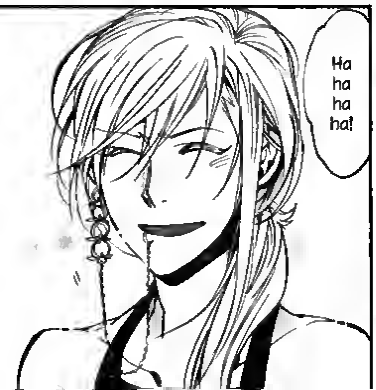

I INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT THE JELLYFISH WAS JUST AN EMPTY SHELL THAT ANCHORED TSUYUKUSA'S SOUL BY WAY OF THE SEAL THAT RIKUGOU DREW,
BUT IT CAN'T BE THAT SIMPLE
THAT JELLYFISH WAS CREATED AS A REFLECTION OF YOU WHEN WE FACED THE MERMAID AND THOSE CRAB THINGS
AND THEN ESSENTIALLY RECREATE YOU
AN AYAKASHI WITH THE POWER TO MAKE THINGS LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SEE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,


THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND.
HA HA!
SOME KIND OF WEIRD HYBRID
TSUYU KUSA
+
JELLY FISH
JELLY FISH
ME! COPY OF MY CONSCIOUS (NESS)
SO
CRAB THING

EH?!
BUT WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HE'LL HAVE ACCESS TO ALL OF KIKUGOU'S THOUGHTS?
SHO
CK


The Jellyfish Copy of Toki
<
Tsuyukusa's Soul
Overwrite and Delete
Install
LET ME EXPLAIN.
I THINK THE SEAL ACTUALLY OVERWROTE YOUR INFORMATION WITH HIS


AND HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL?
NO
ISN'T THIS SOME KIND OF PRIVACY INFRINGE MENT?!
WAIT WHAT?!
THIS IS SO EMBARAS-SING!


Ha ha ha ha!

Ha ha...
No way.
GAAH
shake shake
OKAY, LET'S LOOK AT ALL OF YOUR SECRETS AND SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT!!
GA AA AA AH

But now, somehow, I've been reduced to comic relief... Uh
flap flap
UH, MAYBE HE'S JUST RELIEVED, YOU KNOW?
AND HE'S BEEN STUFFY AND MOPEY EVER SINCE HE WAS LITTLE!
I'VE WORRIED ABOUT HIM SO MUCH...
HUH?
YOU ACTUALLY MADE BONTEN LAUGH!
HUH?
TOKI, THANK YOU.
HASHITA-SAN..
UTSUBUSHI-SAN..
YEAH, THANKS.
I'VE BEEN SUPPORTING BON FOR A LONG TIME, BUT ONE THING I COULD NEVER DO WAS MAKE HIM LAUGH

WHAT THE HELL KIND OF "SUPPORT" IS THIS?!
JUST SHUT YOUR DAMNED MOUTHS!!
WHAT DO TWO BIRD-BRAINS KNOW ANYWAY?
BUT I'M A HUMAN!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU ARE!!
THE FIRST TIME I MET HIM...
I THOUGHT HE SEEMED LIKE SOMEONE WHO HAD SUFFERED A LOT
HUH?

BY SENIOR YEAR, YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT US.
IT'S HARD TO GET CLOSE TO PEOPLE LIKE HIM.
BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS AFRAID OF GETTING HURT.
LONG TIME NO SEE, HASHITA -SAN!
BACK THEN, I NEVER HAD TROUBLE GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE. I'D JUST DELETE THE OLD FRIENDS AND OVERWRITE THEM WITH NEW ONES.
BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE, YOU DON'T GROW
I UNDER-STAND THAT NOW.
MAYBE I'M JUST A COWARD, BUT...
I'M AFRAID OF HURTING PEOPLE, AND I'M AFRAID OF BEING HURT.
IF I'M LIKE A SHIELD, THEN HE'S LIKE A SWORD.
THIS GUY LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT
A SWORD CAN HURT OTHERS, BUT IT CAN ALSO HURT THE PERSON USING IT
SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE THAT, TOO.
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN GO THROUGH LIFE WITHO HURTING ANYONE, HUH?
YOU WANT TO USE ME?
I THINK HE'S DEFINITELY LIKE A SWORD.

BUT SOMEHOW HE'S NOT ACTUALLY SCARY
I GUESS I ENVY THE WAY HE DRAWS PEOPLE TO HIM.
I'M KINDA JEALOUS OF HIM, ACTUALLY
BONTEN'S REALLY GOOD AT MAKING ENEMIES.

SO YOU WANNA MAKE ENEMIES,
HUH?
hehe
WELL, I GUESS YOU ALREADY HAVE A RIVAL IN THAT DEPART-MENT.
YEAH.
I GUESS
SHOULD I BE GRATEFUL OR SOMETHING...?
It's his first time having a rival
GRUMBLE
hehe
UH..
WE COULD FIGHT OVER GIRLS.
LEER
NO WAY!!!
MAN, YOU GUYS REALLY DON'T GET ALONG, HUH?
NOT REAL LY
Don't look at me like that!
BUT THE NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, MAYBE I'LL GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND...
THAT'S WHAT @ONTEN WOULD DO, RIGHT?

step
step
huff
huff
Damn it...
Where are you, Inugami?
LET'S GO BACK!!
GLOW
HAH!
COME ON!!
Back to where?
/

!
No way...
!?
ahaha
aha

CREAK
hu hu hu
bwa ha ha ha
throw
throw
KUCHI
ha...
SHOCK
WH
WHAT THE FUCK?!
You want to go back?

Back to before I made you mine?
Back to when she was yours?
Or...
Back to where?
GO BACK?
CAN I REAL-LY...
BITE

SURPRISE
THEN, SHALL WE...
REWIND TIME?
bounce
bounce
bounce
bounce
bounce
bounce
spin
spin
spin
spin
spin
GRAND-PA,
YOU'RE LATE!

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CHAPTER 87: HERE BLOOMS THE DAYLILY, PART I

T/N "WASUREGUSA" OR "FLOWER OF FORGETFULNESS" IS THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE NAME FOR THE DAYLILY. AND, THE "KAN" IN KANZOU MEANS "DAYLILY" .. AND AS USUAL IN AMATSUKI THIS OBSCURE FLORAL REFERENCE FORESHADOWS THE WHOLE PLOT ARC!

BON!
DON'T RUN INTO ANYTHING WEIRD, OKAY?!
OKAY.
YOU KIDS TAKE CARE!

THERE'S NO SENSE IN ALL OF US WAITING HERE, RIGHT?
WE'LL BE FINE

IS IT REALLY OKAY TO LEAVE YOU GUYS BEHIND,
HA-SHITA-SAN?

noogie
noogie

P
O
P

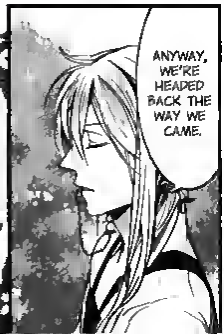
HE STILL CAN'T BE MOVED...
noogie
wiggle
wiggle

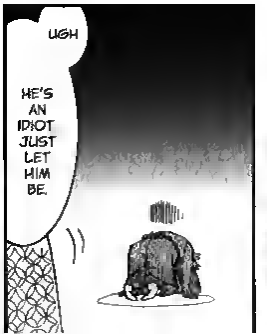
I'M FINE! JUST GET GOING ALREADY!
WE'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU!
Awww!!! Tsuyu-kusa, you're so tiny!!!
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE ALREADY?
WOW.
AT THIS RATE, IT WON'T TAKE HIM LONG TO RETURN TO FULL SIZE. THEN WE'LL FOLLOW YOU.
DON'T WORRY!
BUT...
HOW WILL YOU FIND US?
OH,
IT'S OKAY, I'VE GOT IT COVERED.
EH?!

TSUYU-KUSA...
NO WAY...
FOR SOME REASON, I CAN SENSE WHERE YOU ARE.

I don't want to get you
MAN, YOUR BRAIN IS TOTALLY WEIRD I DON'T GET YOU.

Like, right now, you feel like all your dirty little secrets are being watched.
BUT I GUESS I CAN FIGURE OUT HOW YOU FEEL..


ANYWAY, WE'RE HEADED BACK THE WAY WE CAME.

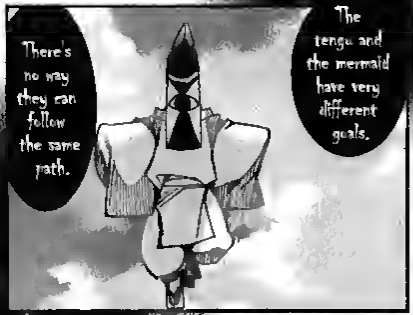

UGH
HE'S AN IDIOT JUST LET HIM BE.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.
Why do I have this power?

BUT BONTEN,
BUT DON'T WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING FORWARD TO REACH GINSHU-SAN?
HUH?
GO BACK?
BUT...
!
THAT'S MY INTENTION.
RIGHT!
WE NEED TO REGROUP.

Why...
Are you turning back?
PUNCH
The two priestesses lie ahead.
If you turn back now, all your struggles will have been for nothing.
STARE

STOP
THERE'S NO POINT IN DOING THAT.
whoosh
YAKOU!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
I am your guide.
To inform you
I simply ask why you would abandon your quest.
To inform you
I will lead you down this path,
But you must keep going forward.



Why... would you turn back now?
BECAUSE YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE US SPLIT UP SO WE'RE EASIER TO FIGHT!
AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO FALL FOR IT!!

T/N: GINSHU'S NAME CONTAINS THE KANJI FOR "RED," AND BYAKUROKU'S NAME CONTAINS THE KANJI FOR "WHITE."

T/N: KUCHIHA IS OBVIOUSLY THE DOG, BUT "SUZUME" IS ALSO THE WORD FOR "SPARROW," AND "HATOHA" CONTAINS THE KANJI FOR "FEATHER."

I'VE GOT MY REA-SONS
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT VERY REASSUR-ING...
SHUT UP, OLD MAN.
We're friends and all, sort of.
I'M NOT OLD!!!
Is your re-solve so weak?
Human hearts waver so easily.
They quickly fall into chaos and confusion.
You hesitate and you don't even know why.

BUT I WANT TO KNOW.
STARE
WHOOSH
UNTIL THEN I WILL BE WAITING!
YOU'RE BEING RASH.
ONCE YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES, I AM AT YOUR SERVICE.

WHOOSH
I can't wait.
Ha ha...
COME ON, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
LET'S GO BACK
HE'S JUST AN ILLUSION.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO HELP US
BONTEN?
Y. Yeah

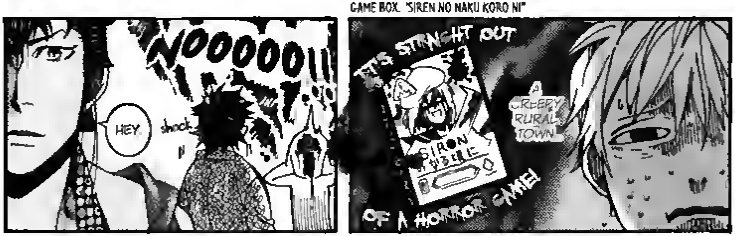
UH,
HEY.
BACK THEN, WHEN YOU SUDDENLY RAN OFF...
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE CHASING AFTER SOMEBODY.
!
WHO WAS IT?
!!

IT WAS ANOTHER ME.
I GUESS YOU'D CALL THAT A "DOPPEL-GANGER," RIGHT?
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE AN OMEN OF DEATH.
SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE... THAT THE DOPPEL-GANGER WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE.
rustle
JUST KID-DING.

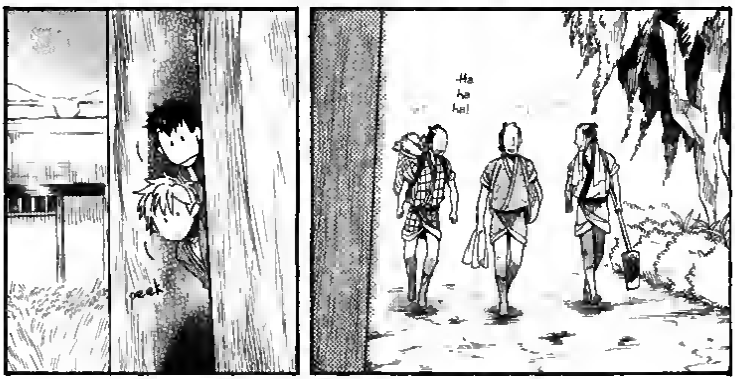
HEY!!
HI-ZAME-SAN!
ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?!
OH, RIKUGOU-DONO IT'S YOU!
WE'RE ALL FINE.
YOU REALLY CAME BACK AFTER ALL.

MY, MY, I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD COME BACK TOO.
YEAH, WHAT-EVER.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE CHASING AFTER THE YAKOU.
rustle
HUH?
WHERE'S THE GIANT BIRD?
He's alive!
Is he dead?
WE HAD TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND, BUT HE'LL MEET UP WITH US SOON.
HEY,
WHERE'S KAN-ZOU?
THAT IDIOT...
...IS WALKING RIGHT INTO THE YAKOU'S TRAP.

HUUUUUUUH?
A VIL-LAGE?
WHERE HAS THE DEMON PATH TAKEN US THIS TIME?
NO... I SENSE THAT WE ARE STILL ON THE DEMON PATH.
THERE ARE VIL-LAGES IN THERE?
FEELS KINDA CREEPY, DON'T YOU THINK?
Ugh...



T/N: THIS IS A PLAY ON TWO POPULAR JAPANESE HORROR VIDEO GAMES, "SIREN" AND "HIGURASHI NO NAKU KORO NI". BOTH ARE SET IN SMALL TOWNS

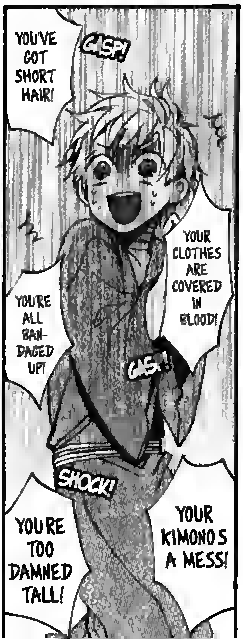


HUH?
LOOK AT YOURSELF, BRO.
SHAKE SHAKE

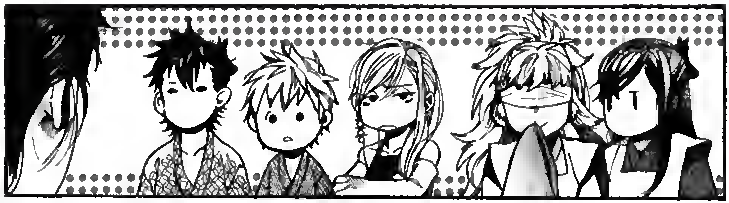
I GUESS..
WELL... THEY LOOK LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, DON'T THEY?

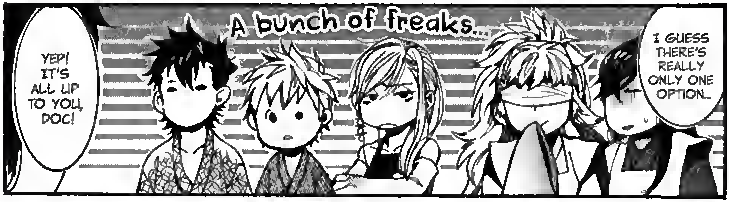
HELL, NO!
SHOULD I GO TALK TO THEM?
grab

ズガーン
SHOCK!
And they're just a bunch of thick farmers!
EVEN I'D STAY THE HELL AWAY FROM YOU!


GASP!
YOU'VE GOT SHORT HAIR!
YOUR CLOTHES ARE COVERED IN BLOOD!
YOU'RE ALL BANDAGED UP!
GASP!
SHOCK!
YOUR KIMONO'S A MESS!
YOU'RE TOO DAMNED TALL!

I'm a suspicious person!
HUH, SO WHO SHOULD WE SEND..?
I GUESS I'VE GOTTEN SO USED TO BEING SURROUNDED BY WEIRD PEOPLE THAT I FORGOT I WAS KINDA WEIRD MYSELF...
Tremble
Tremble

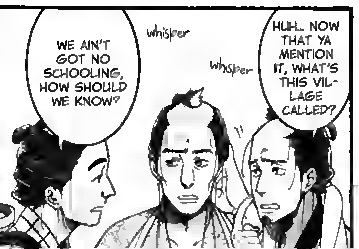



A bunch of freaks...
YEP! IT'S ALL UP TO YOU, DOC!
I GUESS THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE OPTION...

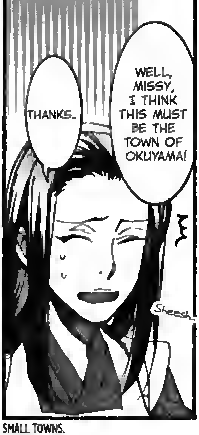
I'M LOST AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
YES
HUH? ARE YOU A TRAVELLING DOCTOR OR SOMETHING?

UM...

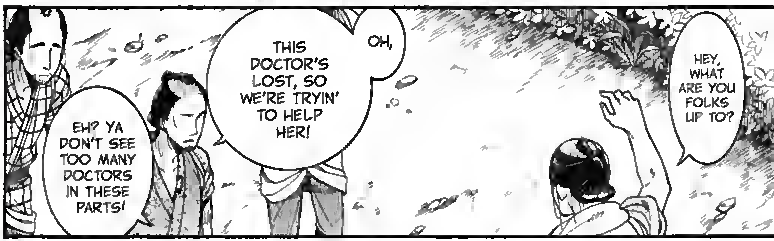
COULD YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF THIS VILLAGE?
PARDON ME, BUT I THINK I'M A LITTLE LOST...

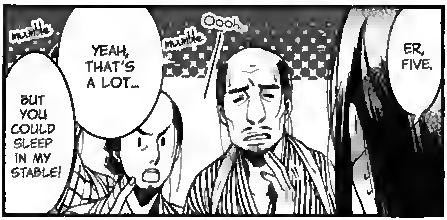

WE AIN'T GOT NO SCHOOLING, HOW SHOULD WE KNOW?
whisper
whisper
HUH... NOW THAT YA MENTION IT, WHAT'S THIS VILLAGE CALLED?

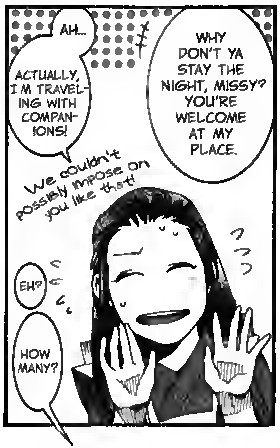
HE'S GETTING NOWHERE
Eeeh?
HE'S RIGHT! ISN'T THE VILLAGE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER CALLED YAMAKAMI?
WAIT, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GEOGRAPHY?
THESE PEOPLE ARE NUTS.



T/N: IN RURAL JAPAN, ESPECIALLY DURING THE EDO PERIOD, THERE OFTEN WAS A LOT OF CONFUSION OVER THE NAMES OF SMALL TOWNS. MAPS WERE UNRELIABLE AND LOCALS RARELY LEFT HOME, SO IT COULD BE HARD TO TELL WHERE THE VILLAGE BOUNDARIES WERE.






AH...
ACTUALLY, I'M TRAVELING WITH COMPANIONS!
WHY DON'T YA STAY THE NIGHT, MISSY? YOU'RE WELCOME AT MY PLACE.
We couldn't possibly impose on you like that.
EH?
HOW MANY?

HEY,
MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE HER TO THE VILLAGE CHIEF?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE VISITORS TO HIM.
HE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP, WON'T HE?
YEAH,
YOU'RE RIGHT
MMHM.
THE VILLAGE CHIEF?!
MAN, WE'D BETTER COME UP WITH A GOOD COVER STORY...
BUT WE WEREN'T GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THE FARMERS. MAYBE THE CHIEF CAN HELP?
AND MAYBE HE'LL HAVE SOME BOOZE TO GIVE US..
And a beautiful daughter
You can think about THAT at a time like this?!
DUDE, KEEP IT IN YOUR PANTS, OKAY?
COME ON!
THEY'RE TAKING US TO THE CHIEF!

THE HOME OF THE VILLAGE CHIEF
MY, MY.
YOU TREAT PATIENTS EVEN WHILE YOU'RE TRAVELING?
THAT'S VERY ADMIRABLE OF YOU.
IT'S A LONG STORY.
OH, NO,
WE'RE JUST A MOTLEY GROUP OF WANDERERS, THAT'S ALL.
OH.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS NUN'S EYES...?
IT'S TRULY A DIVINE MIRACLE!
THE GOOD DOCTOR HAS BEEN ABLE TO RESTORE A LITTLE OF MY SIGHT,
SO, IN GRATITUDE, I BECAME HIS SERVANT!

AND AS FOR MY OTHER COMPANIONS, THEY WERE ONCE COMMON THUGS!
BUT THE GOOD DOCTOR CHANGED THEIR EVIL WAYS, AND THEY TOO PLEDGED THEMSELVES AS HIS LOYAL SERVANTS!
mumble
mumble
mumble
mumble
I guess I must look like a real creep.
sob
sob
sigh
MAN, SHE CALLS 'EM LIKE SHE SEES 'EM!
Com-mon thugs ...?
YEP, PRETTY MUCH.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
TAP
?
list-en
TAP TAP
shhh

AND ON TODAY OF ALL DAYS!
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO GET VISITORS..
NUBLE
NUBLE
NUBLE

NUBLE
NUBLE

I'VE ALREADY CALLED THE EXORCIST EVERYTHING IS READY FOR TONIGHT
NUBLE
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT IN PUBLIC.
IT WILL BE FINE
NUBLE
NUBLE

TONIGHT, WE'LL GET RID OF THE DOG GOD ONCE AND FOR ALL...
WHAT?!

Easy Going Scans